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# THE MIGRANT

A Quarterly Journal
Devoted to
BIRDS OF TENNESSEE

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BEN B. COFFEY, JR.

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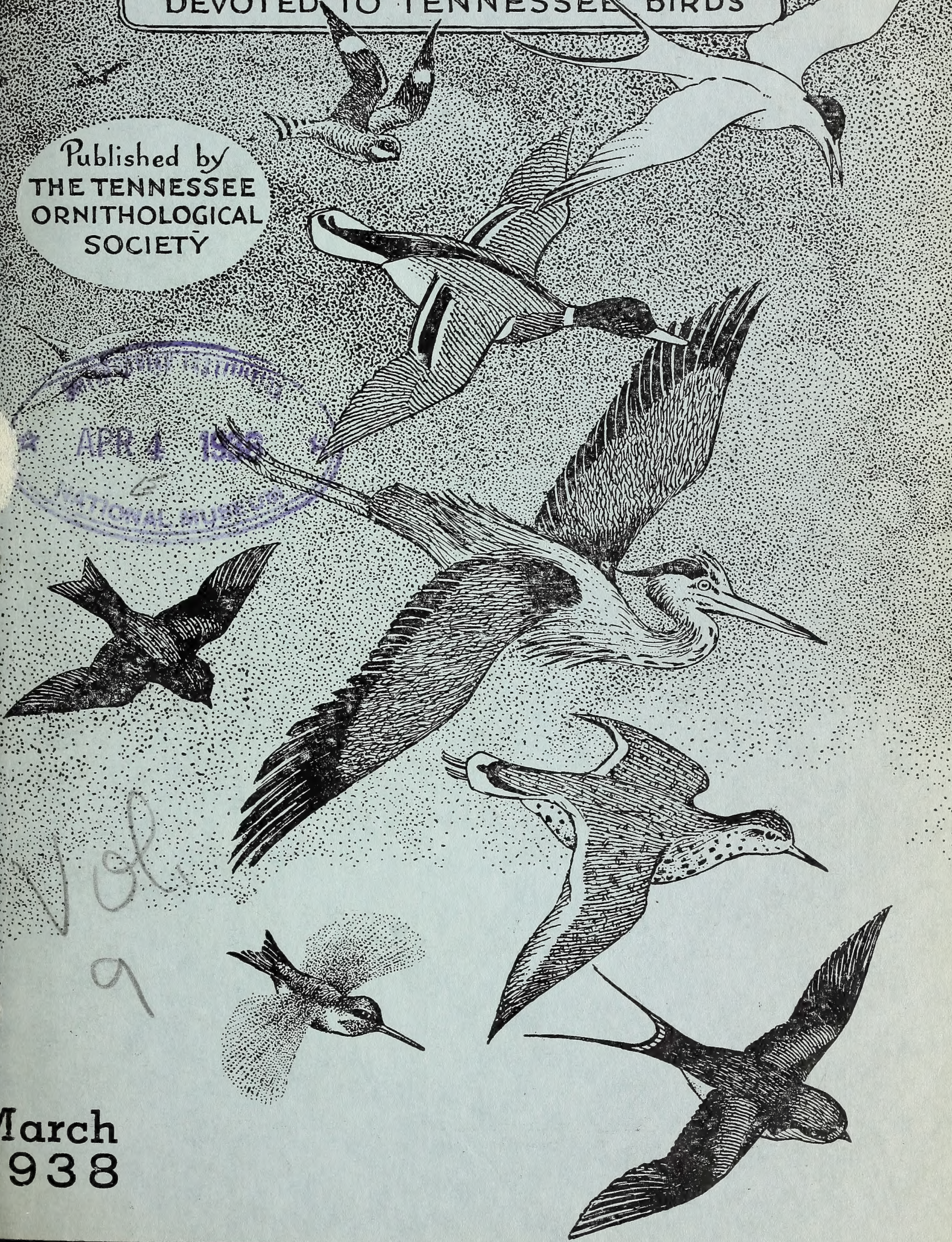

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# THE MIGRANT

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## NOTES ON BIRDS OF THE GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK

By Frank Bellrose

IT was a far cry from seeing Wood Ibises, Purple Gallinules, and Least Terns on August 28, in western Tennessee, to seeing Carolina Juncos, Winter Wrens, and Red-breasted Nuthatches on September 1, in eastern Tennessee. In 1937, the writer and George Fell, after spending two days at Reelfoot Lake, traveled east across Tennessee to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Establishing camp at camp ground No. 1, at an elevation of 1,500 feet, we visited the surrounding area from August 31 to September 7.

We found this region to be of great interest to the botanist and zoologist. Salamanders abounded in the mountain brooks and springs, and blue-tailed skinks were constantly seen about the camp ground. Mammals, too, were quite plentiful; this was evinced by seeing many fox, gray, and red squirrels and black bear signs at higher altitudes. The lower ridges and slopes of these mountains were covered with a variety of hickories, red oak, white oak, scarlet oak, basket oak, pin oak, chinquapin, and, in many places, the result of chestnut blight, thousands of gaunt, dead chestnuts. Rhododendrons grew in moist habitats from the lowest to the highest elevations, being replaced by mountain laurel on drier sites.

A zone of red spruce and Fraser fir extended from about 4,500 feet to 6,500 feet. In the higher portion of this zone, the fir formed practically a pure stand, while in the lower portion red spruce predominated. In this coniferous belt, there was a scattering of mountain ash, alder-leaved viburnum and other deciduous shrubs, while the forest floor was carpeted with tree mosses. Certain northern hardwoods, such as basswood and yellow birch, form a transition between the oak-chinquapin zone and the coniferous forest.

Because of the many varied habitats, due to elevational climatic conditions in this region, such species as Hooded Warblers and Red Crossbills may be met with in the same morning. Indeed, in traveling from 1,000 to 6,000 feet one passes from the Upper Austral life zone to the Canadian life zone. At the season of our stay, many migratory species were doubtless on the move and the local birds were augmented to some extent by individuals from a distance.

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**GREEN HERON**—One was observed along Little Pigeon River at 1,500 feet, Sept. 7.

**TURKEY VULTURE**—One individual was observed soaring near Kephart Mountain at an elevation of 4,800 feet, Sept. 4.

**SHARP-SHINNED HAWK**—Two immature birds were observed doing aerial gymnastics over Mt. Le Conte, 6,582 feet, Sept. 6.

**RED-TAILED HAWK**—Five adult individuals were seen at elevations of 2,500 feet to 5,500 feet.

**OSPREY**—This bird is regarded as a rare migrant in the park, so it was with considerable surprise that one was noticed perched along Little River, at 2,000 feet, Sept. 6.

**DUCK HAWK**—One was observed Sept. 1, flying near the summit of Mt. Le Conte.

**RUFFED GROUSE**—Two were heard calling in the coniferous forest on Mt. Le Conte at 5,800 feet, Sept. 4.

**BOB-WHITE**—Several were heard daily in the many small forest clearings, grown up to composites and grasses, at elevations of 1,200 to 1,500 feet. Near Greenbrier Cove several were observed feeding on fallen apples.

**WILSON'S SNIPE**—It is a mystery what this bird was doing on Mt. Le Conte at an elevation of 4,250 feet, but nevertheless one was positively identified there on Sept. 6.

**SCREECH OWL**—Heard nightly about the camp at 1,500 feet.

**NIGHTHAWK**—On Sept. 7, twenty were seen flying over the fields near the park.

**CHIMNEY SWIFT**—On Sept. 1, and again on the fourth, several individuals were observed flying over Mt. Le Conte.

**RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD**—Several were observed feeding on the blossoms of touch-me-nots, Aug. 31, at an elevation of 1,700 feet.

**BELTED KINGFISHER**—One was seen along Little River at 1,900 feet on Aug. 31.

**FLICKER**—Quite common at lower altitudes, particularly on slopes covered with basket oak, pin oak, and dead chestnut.

**DOWNY WOODPECKER**—Infrequently seen, at 1,700 to 5,000 feet.

**HAIRY WOODPECKER**—A regular but not abundant species from 2,500 feet to 5,800 feet.

**KINGBIRD**—Four were observed along the highway, near camp ground No. 1, on Sept. 2, at 1,550 feet.

**PHOEBE**—Several were heard and seen daily about the camp.

**WOOD PEWEE**—One was observed daily near the camp ground, several in the basket oak-chinquapin zone, and one in the spruce forest at 4,200 feet.

**LEAST FLYCATCHER**—An adult was observed feeding several young on Sept. 2, at an elevation of 2,500 feet.

**BARN SWALLOW**—A large number of these swallows were seen flying over the fields near Gatlinburg, Aug. 30.

**CLIFF SWALLOW**—A number of these birds were noticed in among the Barn Swallows.

**BLUE JAY**—Very few noted. Those heard and seen were at altitudes of 3,400 to 4,500 feet.

**NORTHERN RAVEN**—On Sept. 1, a Raven was heard giving its raucous, croaking call in the red spruce forest covering Mt. Le Conte at 4,800 feet. Later it was observed gliding across a valley and parachuting down to a ridge. One was also seen, Sept. 4, at 5,500 feet on Mt. Kephart.

BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE—These birds were fairly numerous at elevations of 3,800 to 6,500 feet. On one occasion a small band congregated in the trees a few feet above our heads and scolded us vigorously.

CAROLINA CHICKADEE—Only one Chickadee was heard and seen which could be assigned to this species; it was observed on Sept. 2, at 2,200 feet.

TUFTED TITMOUSE—Fairly abundant in the white oak, basket oak, chinquapin zone at elevations of 1,600 to 2,800 feet.

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH—The peculiar nasal calls of these birds were heard frequently throughout the coniferous forest at elevations of 3,500 to 6,500 feet.

BROWN CREEPER—Only two were seen—both in the coniferous forest at 4,500 feet and 5,240 feet.

WINTER WREN—Of regular occurrence in the spruce-fir zone from 4,200 to 6,500 feet. Two were observed in the deciduous forest at 2,800 feet.

BEWICK'S WREN—Two seen near Elkmont, Sept. 3, at 2,250 feet.

CAROLINA WREN—Several were observed, Aug. 31, at an elevation of 1,600 feet. They were found to be particularly abundant about abandoned human habitations.

CATBIRD—One was noticed, Sept. 2, feeding on elderberries at an elevation of 2,050 feet.

WOOD THRUSH—Several were observed in clumps of rhododendron about the base of Mt. Le Conte at 4,000 feet, Sept. 1.

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET—This was one of the most abundant birds at the higher altitudes. Small flocks were met with daily between 4,000 and 6,500 feet in the spruce-fir zone.

CEDAR WAXWING—Several were observed at 1,500 feet, Sept. 2, and a small flock at 4,250 feet, Sept. 7.

WHITE-EYED VIREO—Quite abundant in the small creek valleys at elevations of 1,500 to 2,200 feet. On Aug. 31, an adult was observed feeding several nearly fully grown young.

MOUNTAIN VIREO—Several of these birds were heard and seen in the coniferous forest at 4,900 feet on Mt. Le Conte, Sept. 3.

RED-EYED VIREO—Not as abundant as the previous two species. One was observed Aug. 31, at 1,600 feet.

BLACK AND WHITE WARBLER—Found largely in the deciduous forest zone at elevations of 1,700 to 2,500 feet. Several, however, were seen on Sept. 4, at 5,250 feet.

TENNESSEE WARBLER—Observed frequently in deciduous second-growth between 2,000 and 2,900 feet; also seen at 5,250 feet.

MAGNOLIA WARBLER—Observed in small, evidently migrating, bands of warblers, at 2,600 feet and at 5,250 feet.

CAIRNS'S WARBLER—Found singly but regularly from 3,500 to 4,500 feet in the spruce forest zone. A number of males were heard singing on Sept. 7, at an elevation of 4,250 feet.

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER—This warbler was observed largely at the higher elevations in the coniferous forest. Several were noted, Sept. 4, at 5,500 feet.

**BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER**—Observed from 1,500 to 4,000 feet. Most abundant in second-growth basket oak, white oak, and chinquapin.

**CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER**—Found only in cut-over land at 2,000 to 2,500 feet.

**LOUISIANA WATER-THRUSH**—One was observed along a mountain brook at 3,800 feet on Mt. Le Conte, Sept. 1.

**HOODED WARBLER**—Only one was observed; that on Aug. 31, at 1,600 feet, in among young hemlocks and rhododendrons.

**REDSTART**—Observed from 1,200 to 5,400 feet, seemingly an abundant migrant throughout the region.

**SUMMER TANAGER**—A female was identified in the basket oak-chinquapin zone at 3,200 feet on Sept. 2, 1937.

**CARDINAL**—On Sept. 1, several young were observed being fed by the adults near the camp ground, 1,500 feet.

**INDIGO BUNTING**—One nearly fully grown young was observed being fed by adults on Sept. 3, at 1,400 feet.

**GOLDFINCH**—Quite numerous in abandoned fields at the lower elevations. Observed flying Sept. 1, at 4,600 feet.

**RED CROSSBILL**—Approximately one hundred individuals were observed in the red spruce trees along Tennessee State Highway No. 7, near New-found Gap, 5,000 feet. Several were observed drinking at little pools on the side of the rocky cliff.

**TOWHEE**—A few heard and seen on Sept. 3 in second-growth hardwoods between 2,000 and 2,750 feet.

**BACHMAN'S SPARROW**—Two seen at close range near Greenbrier Cove at 2,200 feet on Sept. 5, 1937.

**CAROLINA JUNCO**—Very abundant and observed daily at 4,000 to 6,500 feet. There were particularly large numbers in and about rhododendron clumps.

**FIELD SPARROW**—Very common in the weedy forest openings between 1,200 feet and 2,000 feet.

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN, ILL.

## BLUEBIRD 'BETTER HOUSING' PROJECT

BY E. D. SCHREIBER

During the past two years Mrs. A. R. Laskey, Dr. Harry S. Vaughn and E. D. Schreiber of the Nashville Chapter, Tennessee Ornithological Society, have conducted a Bluebird nesting project at Percy Warner Park, a few miles southwest of Nashville. In the winter of 1935-36 a group of government relief workers constructed the nest boxes, using plans furnished by Dr. Vaughn. Twenty-six of these boxes were erected with the aid of Boy Scouts of the Tennessee Industrial School in March, 1936. They were placed along Park drives mainly in the southeastern section of the Park, adjacent to Natchez Trace, consisting largely of meadow land, a terrain well suited for Bluebird nesting sites. Each box was numbered and had a removable roof for inspection purposes. Throughout the succeeding nesting seasons weekly inspections were made and the data recorded by E. D. Schreiber as part of a problem in graduate work in biology with Dr. Jesse Shaver at Peabody College. After each nest was used the box was cleaned out.

Most of the nest boxes sheltered two or three families of Bluebirds each season and in one case in 1937 four sets of young were successfully raised in a single nest house. The female laying the first set of five eggs wore a band at the time of brooding but was not retrapped. The female brooding the second set of eggs was trapped without a band. To her right tarsus a band was affixed. Similar evidence at other boxes show us that each box may be used by more than one female.

Whenever possible, brooding females were trapped on the nest momentarily for the purpose of applying on the right tarsus the Biological Survey band. This phase of the project was directed by Mrs. A. R. Laskey who is most active as a bird bander in the Nashville region. All nestlings attaining an age of about ten days were banded on the left tarsus and the sex of each determined when possible.

Results of the study to date may be briefly summarized as follows:

| | 1936 | 1937 | TOTALS |
|---|---|---|---|
| Number of boxes available | 26 | 27 | 53 |
| Number of nests built | 39 | 70 | 109 |
| Number of nest containing eggs | 36 | 67 | 103 |
| Number of eggs laid | 164 | 304 | 468 |
| Number of eggs hatched | 90 | 206 | 296 |
| Number of young banded | 74 | 183 | 257 |
| Number of adult females banded | 3 | 13 | 16 |
| Number of birds re-trapped | 2 | 7 | 9 |

A sixteen-apartment Purple Martin house in the Park was unused by martins but served as the home of a Bluebird family, four young being successfully raised in the house. These nestlings were banded. A Bluebird nest consisting largely of rope fibers, in a hole of a post supporting the wagon shed on Park headquarters property, was observed and the four young banded in the 1937 season. Data from these two nests are included in this study.

A blacksnake was seen to take two young birds from one nest box, and a report from the Wilson boys at the Park indicated that a chicken snake had devoured at least three other Bluebirds, taken as nestlings. The blacksnake gained access to the nesting box, located on a fence post, by using horizontal wires of the fence for support in climbing. This condition was remedied by removing the box from the fence post to a point close by where it has a post of its own.

Cooperation was given by several members of the Tennessee Ornithological Society, Park officials and workmen, Dr. Shaver of Peabody College, and Boy Scouts of the Tennessee Industrial School. Boxes were placed in clearings not too far removed from trees or thickets. Usually they were placed on black locust posts with entrance hole about five feet above ground. Workmen and children of workmen at the Park were informed of the project and their good will was sought. Explanation of the procedure of bird banding was given to those who manifested special interest.

The satisfactory progress attending our efforts thus far has aroused in many individuals and in a few groups the desire to extend the project to other sections. At the request of Mrs. Rufus Fort, Dr. Vaughn addressed a recent meeting of the Nashville Horticultural Society, telling of the Warner Park Bluebird Project. Members of this organization urged that Bluebird houses be erected in Shelby Park also. Accordingly, Dr. Vaughn and Scouts placed ten nesting boxes in Shelby Park, Nashville, in the early spring of 1938. These, with newly placed boxes in Warner Park, bring our total in the two city parks to fifty Bluebird houses. As an educational venture this one has well repaid the efforts put forth. Citizens see that Bluebirds really inhabit properly built houses in suitable locations.

Bluebirds, thought to be getting fewer about Nashville, are here in increasing numbers. We commend this worthy project to others of our members who may be interested and shall be glad to communicate with any who care to undertake a similar experiment.

NASHVILLE, TENN., March 7, 1938.

## ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CENSUS

BY OUR MEMBERS

Our ninth annual state-wide mid-winter or Christmas census of bird life is tabulated below. A list from North Mississippi is also included. The highest list of 69 species (from Nashville) is one short of the record but the composite list for all Tennessee reports is 93,—3 more than ever compiled before. The total for each of the three preceding years was 88. (This includes Ruffed Grouse recorded on the 1936 Spence Field Bald census which was published in *Bird-Lore* (1937, p. 56) but inadvertently omitted from *The Migrant.*) This year the third and most thorough Great Smokies Park census was made and can be credited for most of the increase in the total of the composite list. Included in our Tennessee tabulations for the first time are: Eastern Turkey, Raven, Black-capped Chickadee, Pine Siskin and Red Crossbill,—all from the Park—and Black-crowned Night Heron, Old Squaw, and Broad-winged Hawk. Compared with 1936, the 1937 (-1938) censuses dropped 10 species and added 15. Some interesting comparisons will no doubt be noted not only when checked against previous years but one locality with another. To mention only one, we cite 25 Red-headed Woodpeckers at Nashville where they are often absent, and 12 at Memphis where, though sometimes uncommon, as many as 103 were listed last year. Thorough coverage of territories by our larger chapters make their lists very representative, although all may have 'A-W-O-L' species on the day of recording.

Census lists from Covington, Pulaski, and Johnson City will be found in The Round Table. The Memphis, Nashville, Knoxville, Greeneville, and Great Smokies lists were published in *Bird-Lore* (1938, pp. 52-54). Members of the Memphis chapter also made censuses in North Mississippi: at Tupelo—57 species, Hickory Flat—48, and Moon Lake at Lula—76. All may be found in *Bird-Lore* (1938, pp. 54-55). See also The Round Table.

| | Memphis Dec. 24, 1937 | White Bluff Jan. 8, 1938 | Clarksville Dec. 19 | Nashville Dec. 26 | Mt. Pleasant Jan. 2 | Murfreesboro Dec. 26 | Knoxville Dec. 26 | Norris Dec. 24 | Gt. Smoky Park Dec. 19 | Greeneville Dec. 21 | Rosedale, Miss. Dec. 19 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Number of Species | 66 | 40 | 54 | 69 | 38 | 46 | 44 | 39 | 47 | 41 | 68 |
| Number of individuals | 7570 | 1052 | 1505 | 3254 | 329 | 18639 | 11302 | 450 | 3165 | 3093 | 8130 |
| Number of observers | 21 | 8 | 11 | 20 | 9 | 4 | 8 | 4 | 23 | 1 | 3 |
| Pied-billed Grebe | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1 | .... | .... | .... | .... | 3 |
| Double-crested Cormorant | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 8 |
| Great Blue Heron | .... | .... | .... | 1 | 2 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 42 |
| Bla.-crowned Night Heron | .... | .... | 1* | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1 |
| American Bittern | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1 |
| Canada Goose | 15 | .... | .... | 2 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 17 |
| Common Mallard | .... | .... | 2 | 21 | .... | .... | .... | 35 | .... | .... | 900 |
| Black Duck | .... | .... | 1 | 6 | .... | .... | .... | 50 | .... | .... | 400 |
| Gadwall | 1 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 8 |
| Green-winged Teal | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 5 | .... | .... | 136 |
| Shoveller | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 19 |
| Wood Duck | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 400 |
| Ring-necked Duck | 1 | .... | 41 | 38 | 9 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 500 |
| Canvas-back | 1 | .... | 1 | 1 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 200 |
| Lesser Scaup | 229 | .... | 50 | 10 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 2000 |
| American Golden-eye | .... | .... | 6 | 5 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Old-squaw | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1 | .... | .... | .... |
| Ruddy Duck | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 90 |
| Hooded Merganser | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 150 |
| American Merganser | .... | .... | 1 | 3 | .... | .... | .... | 2 | .... | .... | .... |
| Turkey Vulture | 12 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 2 | .... | 4 | .... | .... | 10 | 3 |
| Black Vulture | .... | 5 | 5 | 12 | .... | 62 | .... | .... | .... | .... | 6 |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1 | 1 | .... | 1 | .... | 4 |
| Cooper's Hawk | 2 | .... | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Red-tailed Hawk | 8 | 1 | .... | 2 | 1 | 4 | .... | 1 | 5 | 1 | 1 |
| Red-shouldered Hawk | 2 | .... | .... | 2 | 1 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Broad-winged Hawk | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1* | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Bald Eagle | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1 |
| Marsh Hawk | 8 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 1 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 8 |
| Duck Hawk | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 2 | .... | .... |
| Pigeon Hawk | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 3 |
| Sparrow Hawk | 15 | .... | 1 | 16 | 1 | 5 | 9 | .... | 1 | 3 | 18 |
| Ruffed Grouse | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 25 | .... | .... |
| Bob-white | 40 | 37 | 31 | 27 | .... | .... | .... | 10 | 19 | .... | 9 |
| Eastern Turkey | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 7 | .... | .... |
| Coot | .... | .... | 4 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 200 |
| Killdeer | 51 | 2 | .... | 18 | .... | 1 | 1 | 1 | .... | .... | 108 |
| Wilson's Snipe | 1 | .... | .... | 6 | 1 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1 |
| Herring Gull | 2 | .... | .... | .... | .... | ... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Ring-billed Gull | 65 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 3 | .... | .... | 84 |
| Mourning Dove | 72 | 21 | 28 | 75 | 1 | 45 | 55 | 1 | 5 | 21 | 5 |
| Screech Owl | .... | .... | 2 | 1 | .... | 11 | .... | .... | .... | 2 | 2 |
| Great Horned Owl | .... | .... | .... | 1 | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1 | .... | 1 |
| Barred Owl | 6 | .... | .... | 2 | .... | .... | 1 | .... | .... | .... | 3 |
| Belted Kingfisher | 3 | 2 | 8 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 1 | .... | 1 | .... | 4 |
| Flicker | 130 | 5 | 21 | 81 | 4 | 11 | 28 | 1 | .... | 6 | 3 |
| Pileated Woodpecker | 1 | 6 | 2 | 16 | .... | 4 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 2 | .... |
| Red-bellied Woodpecker | 53 | 5 | 14 | 31 | 2 | 17 | .... | 3 | .... | 5 | 2 |
| Red-headed Woodpecker | 12 | .... | 7 | 25 | .... | 2 | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1 |
| Yellow-bellied Sapsucker | 9 | 1 | 6 | 19 | 1 | .... | 3 | .... | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| Hairy Woodpecker | 22 | 4 | 5 | 10 | 1 | .... | 1 | 2 | 13 | 1 | .... |
| Downy Woodpecker | 38 | 12 | 9 | 40 | 2 | 6 | 15 | 2 | 28 | 5 | 2 |
| Phoebe | 1 | .... | 1 | 1 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Horned Larks* | .... | .... | 34 | 166 | 1 | 120 | .... | .... | .... | 12 | .... |
| Blue Jay | 252 | 15 | 37 | 52 | 9 | 12 | 29 | 6 | 4 | 15 | 2 |
| Raven | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 10 | .... | .... |
| Crow | 37 | 58 | 89 | 175 | 140 | 2500 | 53 | 14 | 48 | 2800 | 5 |
| Chickadees* | 66 | 30 | 35 | 114 | 5 | 23 | 48 | 2 | 200 | 10 | 14 |
| Tufted Titmouse | 54 | 22 | 52 | 49 | 4 | 17 | 30 | 1 | 19 | 13 | .... |
| White-breasted Nuthatch | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | .... | .... | 3 | 1 | 5 | .... | .... |
| Red-breasted Nuthatch | 2 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 6 | .... | 80 | .... | .... |
| Brown Creeper | 15 | .... | .... | 2 | .... | 3 | 5 | 1 | 14 | .... | .... |
| Winter Wren | 16 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | .... | .... | 2 | 1 | .... |
| Bewick's Wren | 3 | 2 | .... | 6 | 1 | 13 | .... | .... | 1 | 3 | 1 |
| Carolina Wren | 95 | 14 | 17 | 33 | 2 | 9 | 18 | 7 | 26 | 8 | 2 |
| Long-billed Marsh Wren | .... | .... | .... | 1* | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Mockingbird | 115 | 6 | 27 | 131 | 7 | 41 | 28 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 4 |
| Brown Thrasher | 18 | .... | .... | 2 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1 |

| | Memphis<br>Dec. 24, 1937 | White Bluff<br>Jan. 8, 1938 | Clarksville<br>Dec. 19 | Nashville<br>Dec. 26 | Mt. Pleasant<br>Jan. 2 | Murfreesboro<br>Dec. 26 | Knoxville<br>Dec. 26 | Norris<br>Dec. 24 | Gt. Smoky Park<br>Dec. 19 | Greeneville<br>Dec. 21 | Rosedale, Miss.<br>Dec. 19 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Robin | 388 | 6 | 38 | 130 | 2 | 19 | 7 | 12 | 200 | 2 | 2 |
| Hermit Thrush | 30 | 6 | 2 | 9 | .... | .... | 5 | .... | 24 | .... | .... |
| Bluebird | 54 | 24 | 32 | 80 | 8 | 35 | 36 | 14 | 75 | 5 | 7 |
| Golden-crowned Kinglet | 67 | 2 | .... | 7 | .... | 2 | 27 | 9 | 32 | 3 | .... |
| Ruby-crowned Kinglet | 6 | .... | .... | .... | ... | .... | .... | .... | 1 | .... | 2 |
| American Pipit | 30 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 35 |
| Cedar Waxwing | 332 | .... | 4 | 15 | .... | 55 | 35 | 1 | 15 | 11 | .... |
| Shrikes* | 15 | .... | .... | 1 | 1 | 7 | 1 | .... | 5 | 1 | 18 |
| Starling | 370 | .... | 4 | 76 | 18 | 10000 | 10091 | 45 | 6 | 23 | 2000 |
| Myrtle Warbler | 214 | 7 | 47 | 8 | .... | 13 | 41 | 2 | .... | 4 | 30 |
| English Sparrow | com. | 14 | 295 | 280 | .... | 30 | 65 | 17 | 25 | 15 | 14 |
| Meadowlark | 421 | .... | 11 | 90 | 50 | 84 | 97 | 8 | .... | 9 | 200 |
| Red-wing | 80 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 11 | 100 |
| Rusty Blackbird | .... | .... | .... | 100 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Bronzed Grackle | 562 | .... | .... | 2 | .... | 5000 | 48 | .... | .... | 1 | 72 |
| Cowbird | 12 | .... | .... | .... | .... | 5 | .... | .... | .... | .... | 43 |
| Cardinal | 526 | 46 | 170 | 225 | 7 | 40 | 48 | 3 | 37 | 12 | 8 |
| Purple Finch | 19 | 16 | .... | 19 | 1 | 45 | 55 | 100 | 42 | 4 | .... |
| Pine Siskin | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1000 | .... | .... |
| Goldfinch | 120 | 41 | 27 | 60 | .... | 9 | 19 | 12 | 130 | 20 | .... |
| Red Crossbill | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 37 | .... | .... |
| Towhee | 12 | 51 | 53 | 42 | 1 | 13 | 23 | 2 | 4 | 2 | .... |
| Savannah Sparrow | 52 | .... | .... | 9 | .... | .... | 1 | .... | .... | .... | 50 |
| Juncos* | 841 | 360 | 87 | 400 | 12 | 150 | 31 | 15 | 750 | 24 | 11 |
| Tree Sparrow | .... | 5 | 1 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Chipping Sparrow | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1* | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Field Sparrow | 90 | 67 | 14 | 86 | .... | 120 | 157 | 47 | 60 | 4 | .... |
| White-crowned Sparrow | 1 | .... | 1 | 47 | 5 | 54 | .... | .... | .... | 2 | 4 |
| White-throated Sparrow | 1536 | 68 | 148 | 218 | 13 | 15 | 136 | 8 | 90 | 10 | 18 |
| Fox Sparrow | 73 | 7 | 2 | 22 | .... | 3 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Lincoln's Sparrow | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 23 |
| Swamp Sparrow | 29 | 17 | 2 | 58 | 1 | .... | 1 | .... | .... | .... | 40 |
| Song Sparrow | 215 | 60 | 17 | 60 | 8 | 28 | 35 | 3 | 106 | 3 | 78 |

NOTES ON SPECIES: Black-crowned Night Heron at Clarksville,—Reported by Mrs. Hutchison on Dec. 4, 16, and 19 (date of census); slow flapping, long pointed wings, long head, and feet sticking out were points noted.——Broad-winged Hawk at Knoxville,—Reported by Mr. S. A. Ogden and group. The characteristically banded tail was observed with binoculars.——Pigeon Hawk at Rosedale,—One collected.——Horned Larks—Were presumed to be mostly the Prairie, tho the presence of some of the Northern race was probable.——Chickadees,—Both the Black-capped and the Carolina Chickadees were definitely observed on the Great Smoky census; elsewhere only the Carolina Chickadee.——Long billed Marsh Wren at Nashville,—Was seen by Calhoun among piles of drift in a slough near the Cumberland River.——Shrikes,—All Migrant Shrikes except possibly at Memphis where the Loggerhead and the Migrant may each be present in winter.——Bronzed Grackle.—Should be Purple Grackle for East Tenn. censuses.——Juncos,—Both the Slate-colored and the Carolina Juncos were definitely observed on the Great Smoky census; elsewhere only the former was recorded.——Chipping Sparrow at Knoxville,—Observed by Mr. and Mrs. Henry Meyer near Island Home sanctuary.——Lincoln's Sparrow at Rosedale,—Two collected.

**MEMPHIS**: Dec. 24, 7 A.M. to 5 P.M.; overcast all day, windy, white-caps on river; muddy; temp. 48-54. Coverage not as complete as usual; unable to reach best water bird localities; Raleigh not well covered. Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Allison, Ben B. Coffey, Jr., Miss Mary Davant, Fred Dickson, Harold Elphingstone, Bruce Ely, Jack Embury, Bill Fischer, Robt. Hovis, Joe Miller, Fordyce Mitchell, Dr. C. E. Moore, Bob Shaffer, Tom Simpson, Miss Alice Smith, Paul Snodgrass, Henry Turner, Eugene Wallace, Eldon White, Wendell Whittemore. ——WHITE BLUFF: (In Montgomery Bell Park): Jan. 8, 8:30 A.M. to 4:15 P.M. clear, little wind, temp. 26-40. Same route as in 1936 and 1937 (see The Round Table for a comparative summary of results). A. F. Ganier, H. C. Monk, Jesse M. Shaver, H. S. Vaughn, G. B. Woodring, G. M. Yarbrough, E. O. Page, and

W. P. Morrison and grandson.——CLARKSVILLE: Dec. 19, all day; cloudy in A.M., air-drift from the north; temp. 30-35. Environs of town from the northeast to the southwest, inclusive, Dunbar's Cave Lake, and party of three in canoe on and along Cumberland and Red Rivers and West Fork Creek. Lamar Armstrong Alfred Sr., Alfred Jr., Wm. A., and Edward Clebsch, Clarence Collier, Jr., Mrs. Chas. Y. Hutchison, Miss Wanda McBride, Dr. Chas. F. Pickering, and Chas. Stainbrook.——NASHVILLE: Dec. 26, 5:30 A.M. to 6 P.M.; clear, slight wind, temp. 35-55-49. Environs south and west, including Radnor Lake, Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Cumberland River bottoms, Hobbs and Otter Creek Roads, Percy Warner Park, Harding and Charlotte Pikes, and Kingston Springs. B. H. Abernathy, Floyd Brailliar, John B. Calhoun, M. S. Carter, Mrs. Sanford Duncan, W. J. Hayes, Sr. and Jr., Francis and Stephen Lawrence, Miss Mary L. Lee, Arthur McMurray H. C. Monk, C. E. Pearson, G. R. Mayfield, Leo Rippy, Edw. Shreiber, Mrs. Jamie Tippens, H. S. Vaughn, G. B. Woodring, G. M. Yarbrough.——MT. PLEASANT: Jan. 2. 10 A.M. to 4 P.M.; fair, temp. 27-51. D. R. Gray farm in a.m., H. and M. Lake in p.m. A. F. Ganier, Dan Gray, Sr. and Jr., and Dr. and Mrs. G. R. Mayfield, Dr. O. J. Porter, Mr. and Mrs. Sam H. Rogers, H. S. Vaughn.——MURFREESBORO: Dec. 26, 7:30 A.M. to 6 P.M.; partly cloudy, slight wind, temp. 50. Twelve miles on foot. Dr. J. B. Black, Prof. George Davis, Marion Edney, H. O. Todd, Jr.——KNOXVILLE: Dec. 26, 8 A.M. to 4:45 P.M.; cloudy, light wind, temp. 43-45. To Island Home Sanctuary, Topside, Sharp's Ridge; Lake Andrew Jackson to Ebenezer to Bearden. C. O. Baird, Jr., Dr. Earl Henry, H. P. Ijams, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Meyer, Miss Mary L. Ogden, S. A. Ogden, W. M. Walker.——NORRIS: Dec. 24, 7:45 A.M. to 12:35 P.M.; intermittent showers and mist, light wind, temp. 55. To Caryville Lake and return; 12 miles in car, 4 miles on foot. George Foster, Sr. and Jr., Jim Trent, Jr., W. M. Walker.——GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK: Dec. 19, 6 A.M. to 4 P.M. In lowlands (1200-3000 ft. elevation) Misty rain in a.m. followed by fog and overcast sky, muddy ground, temp. 40-46. In mountains (3000-6600 ft.) clear, ground frozen, and temp. 28-40. Light wind. Seven groups of observers in cars and on foot, 160 miles. Area of 15 miles diameter, centered on Bull Head and including Mt. LeConte, Greenbriar Cove, Elkmont, and the state divide from Siler's Bald to Mt. Kephart, including Gatlinburg and Pigeon Forge, outside park boundaries. C. O. Baird, Jr., E. R. Burch, Mary R. Chiles, Brockway Crouch, John J. Hay, Dr. Earl Henry, Mr. and Mrs. H. P. Ijams, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. M. Johnson, Mrs. Frank Leonhard, Miss Mary O. McGriff, Henry Meyer, S. A. Ogden, Miss Kathryn Picklesimer, James Trent, Jr., and W. M. Walker Jr. (Knoxville Chapter); Carlos C. Campbell, R. F. Colgrove, and Miss E. Dorothy Williams (Knoxville); Willis King, Wildlife Technician, and John B. Quinn (Gatlinburg); and Arthur Stupka, Park Naturalist. ——GREENEVILLE: Dec. 21, 8 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.; clear, light wind, temp. 35-40. Reed and Ross farms along Roaring Fork Creek; Bay's Mountain; 4 miles on foot, 12 miles in car. Miss Willie Ruth Reed.——ROSEDALE, MISS.: Dec. 19, 7 A.M. to 6:40 P.M.; clear, temp. 36-46-39. Rosedale to Legion Lake to Lake Bolivar (22 miles S.) and return; 4 miles on foot, 48 miles in car. Gordon Vaiden and Scouts Bobby Linnell and Sammy Ray.

# BIRD BANDING BREVITIES—NO. 12

BY AMELIA R. LASKEY

This past autumn season was quite successful for **Mockingbird** trapping at the home station; 54 were banded in September. As is usual here by early October, territories were being defended and transient Mockingbirds were no longer permitted to stop in the garden. Again our lot was divided between four birds. Only one was a newcomer. YAR and AYB, males that had arrived in the autumn of 1936 and remained for nesting, defended their respective territories of last year. The fourth section was occupied once more by the usual winter resident ABA who nests at a neighbors's about 75 yards northwest but has now spent three winters at the station. At the present writing he has already returned to his summer home. Stimulated by the unusually mild weather of late December, January, and February, all Mockingbirds sang throughout the winter. AYB and YAR won mates by mid-February which was about three weeks ahead of the usual date. AYB's mate had been banded last September, returning February 11. Both females doubtless wintered in the Nashville area, as their plumage was darkened from exposure to city smoke. No nesting activities have been observed. An interesting account of Mockingbird No. 34-200174 is worth recording here. This bird appeared in early spring of 1934 at the window sill feeding shelf of Mrs. K. P. Wright who lives one block from Ward Belmont College. Although she enjoyed his songs, his monopoly of the shelf seemed to frighten the smaller birds so Mrs. Wright asked that he be removed. He was caught in a banding trap, transported in a covered cage and brought by automobile to the banding station about three miles away. He was banded with both colored and numbered bands and released on the evening of March 10, 1934. On the morning of the 12th Mrs. Wright recognized him by his bands as he again fed on her window shelf. He soon acquired a mate but did not remain there for nesting. On January 26, 1938, there was a sudden drop in temperature and snow flurries. That morning Miss Ann Ganier found No. 34-200174 lying on the driveway of Ward-Belmont College. She took him home where he recovered and was released. This bird is now at least five years old. He has been fortunate to survive the dangers of cats and automobiles in that closely built section of Nashville for which he shows such marked preference. **Chipping Sparrows** appeared in rather large flocks at the station last autumn; 54 individuals were banded between Sept. 22 and Nov. 2. ——On Oct. 14 and 28 respectively, **White Crowned Sparrows** C186922 and C186943 were returns—4. **Gambel's Sparrows** 34-107632 was a return—3 on Nov. 25. During the first week of November, three immature Gambel's Sparrows were banded. Two had typical yellowish bills but the other was reddish. ——**White-throated Sparrow** H51352 banded Nov. 30, 1932 was a return—2 on Dec. 6, 1937 (more than five years old).—This winter all native sparrows were conspicuously absent from the station and substations. Only a few Field Sparrows and an occasional Song Sparrow came to the traps. Even the previously mentioned White-crowned Sparrow C186922 that had spent four consecutive winters here, left on Dec. 7. Probably the mild weather and early growth of vegetation is at least partially accountable for the scarcity of birds around the banding traps.——Two **Field Sparrows** that are about five years old were retaken this winter (L38967 and L57941).——**Slate Colored Junco** L38984 banded

Feb. 1, 1934 was a return—3 on Nov. 21, 1937 and H32742 was a return—4 on Nov. 3, 1937, at least 5 1-2 years old.——A pair of **Carolina Wrens** banded in 1934 are still together. The male H73145 known to be approaching at least his fifth year of age, has been mated with H73200 two years or longer.——Winter and spring **Robins** are very aggravating to a zealous bander. There seems to be no bait that will lure them into traps at this season in Nashville, where large flocks are migrating now.——Mr. M. L. Carter, state president of the T. O. S., is establishing a substation at his home near Glendale Park. He has already trapped six Chickadees and seven Titmice, as well as a few other species, at a window feeding shelf.

NASHVILLE, TENN., February 28, 1938.

# A DAY WITH A LOON

BY BENJ. R. WARRINER

I spent the day of December 17, 1937, at Liddon's Lake. three miles from Corinth. A cold misty rain fell and a high wind swept the lake all day. Counting two lakes, separated only by a ten foot levee, there is an area of some forty acres of water at Liddon's. The spot, though close to town, is fairly wild in its setting.

While fishing from the bank, I discovered a large dark gray water bird at a point about midway of the lake. The fog and mist were so heavy I could not identify the bird even with the aid of my glasses. I could tell, however,, that it was not a specimen with which I was familiar. Soon I procured a boat and moved close enough to verify my hopes.—it was a Loon, the second one on my list of birds. The first was on a winter's day at Waukomis Lake near Corinth some five years ago. In their winter dress Loons are not glossy black on the upperparts but are gray.

The Loon at Liddon's soon became accustomed to my presence, and allowed me to approach within one hundred yards of him a number of times during the day. I have never seen another bird in such high feather; for hours he played in the rain and cold. Despite the fact that there was only dim light, nothing but gray skies and gray water, the Loon's snow-white breast flashed and glistened like a great gem. The bird dived almost continuously, and remained under for interminable minutes. Always he reappeared short distances from the points where he went down.

The Waukomis Loon had regaled me with one shrill, ghost-like call. I remained at Liddon's until nearly dark, wishing I might hear the weird sound again. Then, at last my patience was rewarded. As I gathered up my fishing tackle, ready to depart the scene, the friendly Loon laughed once, not as loud as a Loon is supposed to laugh, but yet loud enough to express all the wild and weird spirit so symbolic of this visitor from the Far North.

CORINTH, MISS., February, 1938.

# THE ROUND TABLE

THE SEASON AT MEMPHIS: The Memphis Xmas Census, made Dec. 24, listed only a few species of water birds as we were unable to cover Mound City Chute and Mud Island. The number of Swamp Sparrows, 29, was back to normal, compared with the record high of 502, made last year. Only 30 Pipits and 12 Towhees were seen. Black Vultures were not recorded (seen the next day).——Warriner in his 'Notes' reports the absence of Brown-headed Nuthatches at their regular haunts near Corinth. Mrs. Coffey did not locate the usual resident pair near Hickory Flat, Miss., December 25, nor did we find any of this species in the pines of Tombigbee State Park near Tupelo that same day. Though far from common, one or two pairs have usually been observed at various localities in past years. Only one Pine Warbler was recorded,—in Tombigbee Park. Mrs. Coffey's list of 48 species included a pair of L. Scaup and Ring-necked Ducks on Springdale Lakes. At Tupelo, Miss., we listed 57 species. Not being familiar with the area, our party of five were together most of the time. Two artificial lakes near a country club and in a state park, yielded no records but Gum Pond, lapping right at the edge of the poorer section of town, had attracted a Hooded Merganser, a Canvas-back, a Gadwall, a Ring-necked Duck, and 2 Coots. We returned at dusk and watched 15 Lesser Scaups come in. Usually, more ducks are present, according to residents. A heavy fine for shooting on the lake, protects the ducks.——Wilson's Snipe liked the drained ponds at the fish hatchery and amused me by apparently trying to hide behind the small piles of moss in the pond. 30 were recorded at this place, compared with only 1 for the complete Memphis list, and none elsewhere, including Moon Lake. 24 Pipits flew over the grounds——At Moon Lake, near Lula, Miss., the weather was threatening but better than last year. A fair land bird list was secured in the bottomlands near the levee to give a total of 76 species. No Bob-whites were recorded. Only 2 Savannah Sparrows and 2 American Pipits, plus 27 Pipits hurrying over, were recorded on the burnt-over levee (usually frequented by large flocks of Pipits) and near-by fields. On the lake,——Loon 1; Horned Grebe, 27; Pied-billed Grebe, 8; Baldpate, 2; Pintail, 6; Canvas-back, 75; Golden-eye, 2; Bufflehead, 3; Ruddy Duck, 1150; Hooded Merganser, 8; American Merganser, 500; Red-breasted Merganser, 2000; 5 common species of ducks, 417; unidentified ducks, 600; Herring Gull, 350; Ring-billed Gull, 2;——Buster Thompson did not make his Paris, Tenn. census this year. Located at Greenwood, Miss., now, Buster and two Scouts made an interesting list in a canoe trip there, Dec. 25.——Nothing of consequence was recorded Jan. 30, on a trip to Piney Woods and to Mud Lake (Ganier, Wallace, Coffey). Recorded at the latter—2 Mallards, 1 Pintail, 20 Ring-necked Ducks, 6 L. Scaups, 2 Pipits, and a pair of Marsh Hawks.——At Horseshoe Lake, Ark., Feb. 6, Simpson observed 2,000 Cormorants, 325 L. Scaups, 2 male Golden-eyes, 30 Coots and an adult Bald Eagle,—On Feb. 26, Simpson and Whittemore saw nothing unusual in 2 hours at Mud Lake; the only ducks were 20 L. Scaups and 50 Ring-neckeds.——A Sharp-shinned Hawk was seen

Dec. 30, west of Germantown.——Feb. 20, During a cold spell, I visited likely spots for Tree Sparrows, without success; we have no records of this species.——Jan. 9 about 6 Herring Gulls were observed walking along the shore by J. C. Lamon and the writer. Ring-billed Gulls have been unusually common on the river front all fall and winter; from 20 to 75 were often noted in one section. At their favored locality, off the lower sewer, from 10 to 75 L. Scaups were also seen until about Dec. 31. They could be studied at 20 yards from a car on Riverside drive. A Canvas-back was seen at the water's edge in early December and another with Scaups in mid-stream, Dec. 24. A flock of about 80 L. Scaups have been present most of the winter in Wolf River at the N. 2nd. St. bridge site and on Feb. 20, about 25 Ring-necked Ducks were also there.——The first migrants recorded were 2 Purple Martins on Mar. 4 (Fiedler) and 1 on Mar. 7 at Whitehaven (Guth).——BEN B. COFFEY, JR. Memphis.

NOTES FROM MEMBERS OF THE CLARKSVILLE CHAPTER: A Vesper Sparrow was seen, Dec. 16 on our local golf course. Recognizing it as an unusual bird for our area, I followed and flushed it a number of times and carefully checked my identification.——On Jan. 16 an adult Bald Eagle was seen on the Cumberland River. He was recognized instantly as he flew by within 100 yards of me. Going downstream, he lit for several minutes on a large dead branch of a tree. Since that time we have heard from several sources, reports of an Eagle's nest farther down the river. We will investigate these reports as soon as possible.——During the last two weeks in February there have been very large flocks of Robins in different parts of the city. On the 25th a friend telephoned me about an albino Robin present among an immense flock in his back-yard. As soon as I could get my bird glasses, I went over to investigate. Hundreds of Robins were there and many Cedar Waxings were also present. After about 30 minutes I discovered the 'curiosity.' The bird was of an ivory color throughout, with the single exception of his breast which had the typical Robin-color. —CHAS. F. PICKERING, M. D.

In the last issue I mentioned a late fall occurence of a Yellow-billed Cuckoo, the date being Oct. 25. Additional information may be of interest. This bird rose out of a patch of grass near an old lespedeza field, but flew only with difficulty to a wild cherry tree near-by. It could be seen that several of his tail feathers were missing. In order to learn more about his queer behavour and anything that might possibly cause his late presence, I collected the bird and examined him carefully. His stomach stuck out so much that a sharp fold appeared between it and the breast. This made the bird look thin otherwise, but his weight was full, (about two ounces) and much hard fat lined his body. This was due, I later found, to the fact he had just packed into his stomach, a grasshopper that measured two and a half inches, body and wings. In addition there were two other grasshoppers of like size, crushed for digestion, and four small ones, three quarter-inches long, besides a quantity of parts of still others. It was thus easy to see why the stomach was bulging. The season was already too late for caterpillars, but nevertheless, the Cuckoo had found ample food, even if he had to go to the ground to get it. The absence of some of the tail-feathers was due to moulting.

In connection with recent articles in *The Migrant* on the playfulness of birds, we offer an incident of a playful Marsh Hawk. On February 27, when steady winds were blowing, we saw a Red-tailed Hawk come over, flying low, then started to circle over a sun-bathed slope. A lone Crow made a few passes at him, but withdrew when a Marsh Hawk came on the scene. The latter promptly took over the teasing of the Red-tailed, the while circling and rising together with him. The game seemed to be taken lightly by the clumsier Buteo who continued his circles and budged but little, even when the Harrier fell bodily on him. We watched their maneuvers until the birds reached such heights that our glasses showed only two fading dots.——Persons living on the river front reported what was to them an unusually large gathering of Herring Gulls, Nov. 14. Just below the L. & N. R. R. bridge, where the Cumberland is about 400 feet wide, about 200 Gulls were assembled. The greater part were sitting on the water while others flew about, going upstream as far as the bridge. Birds in white plumage outnumbered those in dark plumage. Later, they moved downstream in two loosely-composed groups, some spreading out over the cornfield to find a short cut to the river below. ——On Dec. 13, 1937 a single Lesser Snow Goose was seen swimming on the river and was flushed twice by an approaching barge. The plumage indicated that it was an immature bird.——Great Blue Herons have been seen repeatedly this winter along the Cumberland. During a rise of the river one was noticed riding a piece of drift wood in the middle of the stream. Crows and Grackles are quite fond of this mode of transportation and use it to hunt food in the form of snails, water-insects and the like. At the time, some of these smaller birds shared the log with the Great Blue——Since mid-winter records of the Ruby-crowned Kinglet in this section are rare, we report positive identification of single individuals at different localities on Jan. 8 and 23.——An early and unexpected messenger of Spring was a Tree Swallow which we saw on Feb. 20, as he was industriously flying over the lake at Dunbar's Cave. He was without companions and was not found again on later visits. On the date mentioned we also found the first Wood Ducks back on Red River.—ALFRED CLEBSCH, Clarksville.

NOTES FROM NASHVILLE: The month of February was unusually warm; in fact, its average temperature of 50 degrees has only been exceeded 3 times in 70 years. As a result, vegetation by March 1st had advanced at least three weeks beyond normal. The male Cardinal at my feeding shelf began feeding his mate on Jan. 29, a sure sign of an early spring and weeks ahead of schedule. On Feb. 27, a Killdeer was found incubating four fresh eggs, this being unusually early though in several other years it has been found nesting as early as this date. A day or two before, Dr. H. S. Vaughan reported a Red-tailed Hawk's nest containing two eggs and that a Bluebird's nest held eggs on March 5. Additional Bluebird boxes are being erected in Warner Park this spring and the numbers of these attractive birds are being steadily increased. Chipping Sparrows were reported on March 5 by B. H. Abernathy, this being 4 days ahead of their average first date. Robins have been very abundant during late January and February, an immense roost being in daily use west of Nashville. Starlings, too, have been more abundant during these months than since February, 1934—the year that they darkened the suburban lawns and stripped all the hackberry trees of their berries. Red-wings were reported on Feb. 10, by Miss Mary Lee, as having returned to their summer homes on Radnor Lake. Dr. G. R. Mayfield reports that

Starlings are so perfectly mimicking the expected spring migrants that he can no longer be sure of what he hears until he has identified it by sight,.

A. F. GANIER, NASHVILLE.

THE SEASON AT KNOXVILLE: Personal observations plus reliable information from other observers show a change in the status of water birds on Norris Lake when compared with the 1936-1937 season. The species represented were probably about the same but the number of individuals that remained on the lake was not as large, and the flocks were smaller.——Lake Andrew Jackson froze over the middle of December and except for some Mallards the ducks didn't return until about Feb. 13. A flock of Mallards began wintering there in mid-October but the birds disappeared one or two at a time until on Jan. 23 one wary drake remained. It hasn't been recorded since Feb. 6, which leads me to believe that some hunter finally killed it too.——The Hermit Thrush was more common around Knoxville this winter and the Cedar Waxwing, altho erratic in its movements, has been a rather consistent visitor thruout the areas visited.——A small group of Savannah Sparrows was located in the early fall and has remained in the one restricted area practically all winter. This is the first time in three years the writer has been able to find definite evidence of a wintering flock. While on the subject of winter residents we have three Shrikes located this winter as compared to one last year. Also, a Brown Thrasher has been a consistent visitor at Mr. Crouch's place since January 10.——Early spring arrivals worthy of mention are two Rusty Blackbirds on Feb. 13. Quoting from my notes,—"Today Charles Baird, Mrs. Walker, and I found two Rusty Blackbirds feeding in the shallow water at Lake Andrew Jackson. The light eye-ring, the greenish cast of the black feathers, the tinge of yellow on the throat and the faint yellow line over the eye were all plainly seen with binoculars at 15 to 30 feet. We observed the birds for about 20 minutes and twice during this interval we heard their creaky yet musical notes which made up a short song."——The Red-wing was seen at Lake Andrew Jackson on Feb. 12 (Meyer) when 3 were observed in a cat-tail bordered pond. The next day about 300 were found in a small elongated marsh near Karns High School in Knox county. In this flock the females outnumbered the males by 4 or 5 to 1.——A Pine Warbler, hungry from the long flight north, had Sunday morning breakfast (Feb. 27) at the Ijam's feeding station. After 15 or 20 minutes of intermittent eating the warbler flew off into the wood.——Often we hear the phrase, "Help the birds." It was Mr. and Mrs. William Johnson who stepped in and helped a pair of Red-bellied Woodpeckers. About Feb. 8 Mrs. Johnson noticed these birds excavating a cavity in a dead limb of a black gum tree. After working for about 10 days the birds had their home large enough to suit their needs, only to lose it to a pair of Starlings. Then the Woodpeckers moved up the limb and began another hole on the opposite side of the limb from the first cavity. However, before this excavation was half completed, other Starlings were sitting around waiting for a chance to take it. It was here that Mr. Johnson came to the rescue and, temporarily, at least, the Red-bellied Woodpeckers are quietly enjoying their new home.—W. M. WALKER, Knoxville.

WINTER NOTES FROM CORINTH: Pied-billed Grebes feeding on the bottom at Liddon's Lake. Each bird came up with a bill full of moss. On the surface, each bird had to run from the others to keep them from robbing him of his find. Cooper's Hawk chased a Brown Thrasher into a pile of brush in new ground. The Thrasher gained sanctuary only inches ahead of his enemy. The brush pile proved a life-saver. A Hermit Thrush fed on berries of a dogwood tree; Mockingbird ate holly berries; Purple Finches lunched on the blue berries of a privet hedge; Robins feasted on holly berries, starting at the top of the tree and working downward; Flickers and Downies ate hackberries, with many Myrtle Warblers in the same tree. A Red-tailed Hawk battled with the high swift wind; he could make no progress at all at the level where I first saw him, so he soared up and up until I lost him in space. A fine bird, emblematic of wild, free life, whose domain is limited only by the sweep of untiring wings. Sapsuckers, usually common in winter in Tuscumbia bottoms, are rare this year. Bluebirds seem to increase in numbers. Brown-headed Nuthatches not found this winter in their usual haunts here. Likely they will return early in March. Looked all winter for Horned Larks, but without success. Vesper Sparrows flew up by roadside on two occasions in late January; saw them well enough to know them from Juncos, which, of course, are common everywhere. On Feb. 20 many Pine Warblers were found 8 miles west of town. An unusual sight, Feb. 27,—a flock of at least 500 Mourning Doves, evidently migrating—BENJ. R. WARRINER, Corinth, Miss.

ANNUAL MID-WINTER BIRD CENSUSES OF THE MONTGOMERY BELL PROJECT: The third census of this area near White Bluff, Tennessee, was made on Sunday, January 8, 1938, by the same groups that made the first and second censuses,—namely, Messrs. Ganier, Monk, Shaver, Vaughn, and Woodring —accompanied by Mr. W. P. Morrison and grandson of Dickson, Mr. G. M. Yarbrough, and Mr. E. O. Page. As nearly as possible, the same route was taken by each group as in 1936 and 1937 (*Jour, Tenn. Acad. Sci.* 1936, pp. 95-97). Since the beginning of this study in 1936, the greatest change has been in the old fields. Young trees and shrubs have invaded these from the forest and from streams and gullies so that most of the fields are well dotted with blackberry briars, tall weeds, shrubs of many kinds, and young trees. The houses that were occupied a year ago are now empty but the C.C.C. Camp is still occupied and work has gone forward on the dirt dam. Just above the dam where the lake will be, much shrubbery has been cleared away. A brief summary of the birds for the past three censuses might be of interest and is given below. (The complete 1938 list is included in the tabulated lists in this issue.) Birds seen on all three of the trips were: Black Vulture, Mourning Dove, Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Blue Jay, Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Bewick's Wren, Carolina Wren, Mockingbird, Hermit Thrush, Bluebird, Myrtle Warbler, English Sparrow, Cardinal, Purple Finch, Goldfinch, Towhee, Slate-colored Junco, Field Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Song Sparrow; total, 27. Birds seen on two of three trips: Turkey Vulture Red-tailed Hawk, Marsh Hawk, Bob-white, Killdeer, Belted Kingfisher, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Praire Horned Lark, White-breasted Nuthatch, Winter Wren, Robin, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Meadowlark, Fox Sparrow; total 14,. Species recorded only one year were:. Cooper's Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, Screech Owl, Red-headed Woodpecker, Brown Creeper, Cedar Waxwing, Starling, Rusty Blackbird, Tree Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow; total 10. The total number of species seen in the area during the studies was 51.—JESSE M. SHAVER, NASHVILLE.

BIRD CENSUS AT COVINGTON:—Dec. 25, 1937; 9:30 A.M. to 5 P.M. except 2 to 3 P. M. Cloudy, with fog to noon, part sunny in P. M., temp. 48-54. In car on Highway 51 to five miles north of town; five miles on foot near Liberty, southwest of town. Red-tailed Hawk, 1; Sparrow Hawk,1; Killdeer, 28; Mourning Dove, 2; Flicker, 2; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 8; Downy Woodpecker, 1; Blue Jay, 30; Crow, 80; Carolina Chickadee, 3; Carolina Wren12; Mockingbird, 10; Brown Thrasher, 1; Robin, 3; Hermit Thrush, 3; Bluebird, 15; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 1; Cedar Waxwing, 6; Migrant Shrike, 1; Myrtle Warbler, 4; English Sparrow, 10; Meadowlark, 9; Cardinal, 25; Goldfinch, 7; Slate-colored Junco, 400; Field Sparrow, 35; White-throated Sparrow, 175; Swamp Sparrow, 1; Song Sparrow, 30. Total, 29 species, 904 individuals—ALICE SMITH, Memphis.

BIRD CENSUS AT PULASKI:—Jan. 6, 1938; 9:30 A.M. to 4 P.M. Steady rain all day, temp 40-50. About 300 acres covered. Marsh Hawk, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 1; Killdeer, 10; Mourning Dove, 4; Flicker, 6; Pileated Woodpecker, 2; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 3; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 2; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 2; Praired Horned Lark, 100; Blue Jay, 15; Crow, 100; Carolina Chickadee, 35; Tufted Titmouse, 12; Carolina Wren, 5; Mockingbird, 14; Robin, 15; Bluebird, 9; Starling, 500; Myrtle Warbler, 35; Meadowlark, 30; Bronzed Grackle, 405; Cowbird, 20; Cardinal, 60; Goldfinch, 1; Towhee, 3; Slate-colored Junco, 100 plus; Field Sparrow, 100; White-crowned Sparrow, 5; White-throated Sparrow, 60; Fox Sparrow, 7; Song Sparrow, 9. Total, 33 species; 1672 individuals..—MRS. F. C. LASKEY AND MRS. SAM H. ROGERS.

BIRD CENSUS AT JOHNSON CITY:—Dec. 28, 1937. Temp. 40. Boone's Creek. Turkey Vulture, 2; Red-tailed Hawk, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 4; Mourning Dove, 9; Screech Owl, 1; Belted Kingfisher, 1; Flicker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 3; Prairie Horned Lark, 100; Blue Jay, 4; Crow, 19; Carolina Chickadee, 3; Tufted Titmouse, 16; Carolina Wren, 5; Mockingbird, 5; Bluebird, 8; Starling, 50 plus; English Sparrow, 50 plus; Meadowlark, 2; Cardinal, 17; Goldfinch, 2; Slate-colored Junco, 10; Field Sparrow, 4; White-crowned Sparrow, 1; Song Sparrow, 15. Total, 25 species; 333 individuals.—ROBT. B. LYLE AND BRUCE P. TYLER.

A FEMALE CARDINAL FIGHTS HER REFLECTION:—An uncommonly pugnacious Cardinal has been fighting her reflection in a window. This appears the more unusual because it occured in January rather than during the nesting season. On Jan. 20, 1938, when my neighbor told me of it, the duel had been in progress for ten days. During this time Mr. Reed has observed the Cardinal's actions carefully. He says she was at the window almost every hour of every day during this time; one morning he found her at the window before sunrise. She attacked her reflection by leaping forward and upward at the window, hitting it smartly with her beak and out-stretched wings. The sound thus made audible at the farther end of the room.——The Cardinal appeared puzzled one afternoon when the window was raised and left open. She came several times and looked about—never, however, entering the building. ——Two or three times the female was accompanied by a male Cardinal which behaved as a bystander and never became sufficiently interested to join the attack on the persistent intruder.——The effort of the ten days combat was beginning to tell on the Cardinal when I first saw her. Mr. Reed said that the time between attacks was noticeably increasing. She remained at the window but perched quietly for longer periods between bursts of fighting.——On the following day a shade was hung close to the window. By shutting off the light between the windows and a cabinet the shade seemed to eliminate the reflection. For two days the bird returned half a dozen times to her post, leaving soon when she found the situation changed. During the days following she did not return. Is it usual for a female Cardinal to defend thus persistently a territory, even if merely against her own reflection?—WILLIE RUTH REED, GREENEVILLE.

BLUE GOOSE IN HAWKINS COUNTY:—On Nov. 8, 1937, a local hunter observed two strange birds on the Holston River below Church Hill and shot at them because they were of a kind unknown to him. He killed one but being unable to recognize it, he brought the specimen to Johnson City where Mr. R. B. Lyle identified it as a Blue Goose (*Chen caerulescens*). This is the first record I have of this species in this locality.—BRUCE P. TYLER, Johnson City.

EDITOR'S NOTE:—This is apparently our third published record of the Blue Goose in East Tennessee. In past issues, W. M. Walker reports the first record from a specimen taken in Cocke County in the fall, about 1927 or 1929 (1935, p. 49) and later mentions one killed, Nov. 21, 1936 on the Tennessee River near Knoxville (1936, p. 103).

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER CATCHING WASPS: On January 15, 1938, I was sitting in a chair on the south side of our large three story building. The day was warm and wasps were attracted to the warm bricks above me. I was busily writing when I heard such a "swish" at my head that I instinctively ducked. The cause of my alarm was a Red-headed Woodpecker. He perched in a nearby white oak and then swooped at me again. I then saw he was catching wasps on the fly, alongside the wall, and apparently eating them. I can only conjecture what he did about the stings.—CAMERON McR. PLUMMER, St. Catherine's, Bolivar.

THE STARLING AS A MIMIC: For the past several years I have been observing the songs of certain Starlings on the Vanderbilt campus, particularly during the fall and winter. My attention has been directed, especially during three recent months, to one Starling which frequently sits in a sugar maple near a nesting hole. He has perhaps the best repertory of any Starling to which I have ever listened and his imitations are quite deceiving; in fact, he imitates some campus birds so well that I now have to check with my eyes to be sure what bird it really is. There may be two or three other Starlings among the dozen on the campus, which also imitate other birds, but I am inclined to the opinion that this bird leads the field in his power of varied song. His best imitations are those of the Meadowlark, the Bronzed Grackle, female Bob-white, and Wood Pewee. He also imitates the songs of the Bluebird, the Cardinal, the Flicker, the Blue Jay, the Robin, the White-throated Sparrow, the English Sparrow, the Red-eyed Vireo, the Summer Tanager, the Red-headed and the Hairy Woodpeckers.—G. R. MAYFIELD, Nashville.

BIRDS UNAFFECTED BY NOISE: What small attention that some of our land birds at times pay to man-made noises was noticed by Dr. Pickering one day last July when he visited the skeet-field near Clarksville. From the hours of 1 to 6:30 P.M. between 600 and 700 shots were fired, and during that time he counted 15 species of birds within 100 yards of the shooting stand. Only a few steps away he found a Bewick's Wren sitting quietly on the nest.

Other species listed were: Bob-white, Mourning Dove, Nighthawk, Phoebe, Wood Pewee, Purple Martin, Tufted Titmouse, Mockingbird, Robin, Prairie Warbler, Maryland Yellow-throat, Yellow-breasted Chat, Meadowlark and Field Sparrow.

An instance of similar nature is reported by Mrs. Pickering. On the rocks that form the background to the dance floor at Dunbar's Cave a pair of Phoebes was found nesting during June. In the weeks following the old birds were repeatedly seen late at night gathering insects around the strong electric lights and feeding their young, unmindful of the large and noisy crowd a short distance below them.—ALFRED CLEBSCH, Clarksville, Tenn.

## NATIONAL WILDLIFE RESTORATION WEEK—MARCH 20-26

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## MEETING DATES

Notifications of the following meeting dates have been received. CLARKSVILLE: Meetings are held every two weeks at the homes of members and are scheduled for the following Tuesdays: April 5, 19; May 2, 16, 30; June 13, 27. Dr. C. F. Pickering is pres. and Alfred Clebsch is secy. KNOXVILLE: April 6, May 4, and June 1 at 'Flowercraft', 415 W. Church Ave. Field trips planned for the third Sunday in each month. Mr. S. A. Ogden is pres. and Miss Mary Ruth Chiles, 1817 Highland Ave., is secy. MEMPHIS: At the 'Pink Palace' Museum the following Monday nights: April 4, 18; May 2, 16, 30. Tom Simpson is pres. and Mrs. T. I. Klyce, Raleigh, Tenn., is secy. NASHVILLE: Monday evenings, March 28; April 11, 25; May 8; June 13. The BLUEGRASS CHAPTER plans a spring outing in April. Dan R. Gray, Mt. Pleasant, is pres. and Mrs. Sam H. Rogers, Pulaski, is secy.

The spring field days held by our various chapters, usually the first part of May, are among our most enjoyable activities. There is a standing invitation from each chapter for other fellow bird students to join them on these outings. For full information write the respective secretary. The annual election and field day will be held, May 15, with the Nashville chapter as hosts. President Carter hopes to see as many as possible present. This will be an important meeting and, as usual, most enjoyable from a standpoint of outing and fellowship.

THE MIGRANT

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Items for publication should be sent to the Editor.

*"The simple truth about birds is interesting enough,*
*it is not necessary to go beyond it."*

A glance through the eight volumes of *The Migrant* issued to date by our Society, forcibly illustrates, as we pass from one volume to the next, the growth of the Tennessee Ornithological Society in numbers and in interest. Most of this splendid progress can be credited to *The Migrant* under the able hands of Messrs. Albert F. Ganier and George Woodring, and with the co-operation of all members. An example of the part played by *The Migrant* in the growth of our accomplishments is seen in the annually published Christmas censuses. For 1937, eleven lists crowdel the tabulation to the limit and other lists had to be published separately. The 1937-38 composite total for the state is 93 species or 3 more than ever before.

In the June issue we plan to publish a list of T. O. S. members, with addresses and dates of admission. It will be the first since 1931 and will not be repeated for at least three years. Each June a list of officers and of new members will be given. Please check your name and address as it has been appearing on mail from the Society. Chapters should contact prospective members and delinquent members who desire to continue their memberships. The list will be closed for publication May 15.

The unaccustomed task of preparing our journal for publication was considerably lightened by the fact that it had already been developed to its present standard by Mr. Ganier and a 'work-routine' evolved. His trip to Memphis to explain the complete steps and additional suggestions are gratefully acknowledged. The ready response of our members to my letter of February 17 was appreciated. While we are holding several good articles for future publication, we need more of them, as well as shorter items. For the June issue, seasonal and current notes should reach us by June 20 or before. If possible we would like to receive other 'copy' by early May. This is because of our heron banding expeditions, set tentatively for May 22 and June 6. The heronries are 200 miles south of Memphis and we hope to exceed last year's 3800 in number banded. This, of course, necessitates much preparation before and much work on records afterwards.

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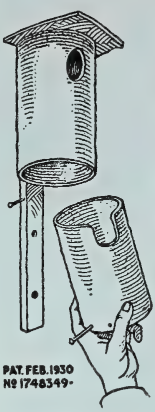
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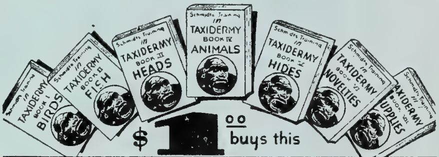
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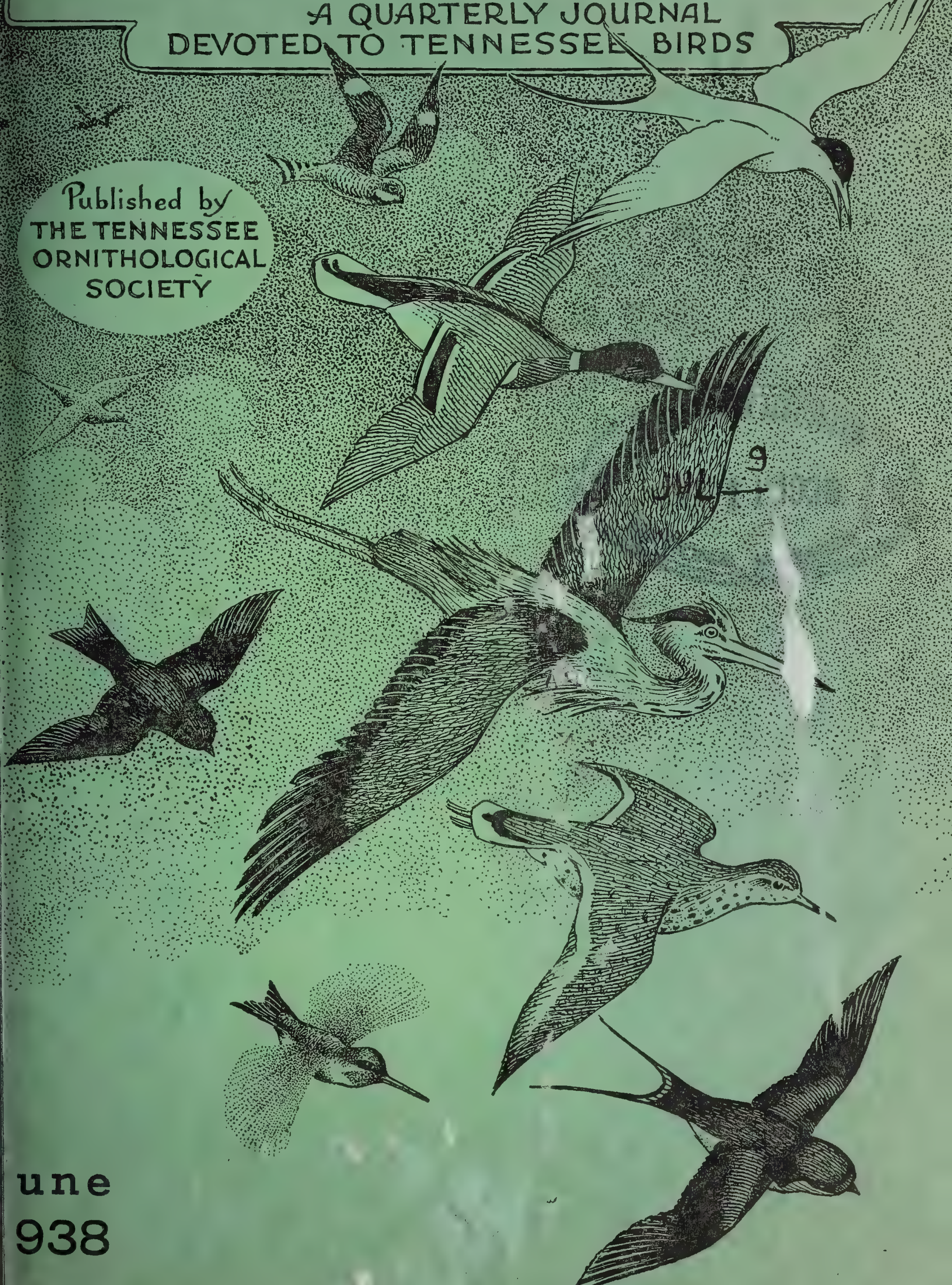

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# THE MIGRANT

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## PROTHONOTARY WARBLERS MAKE NEWS

Dr. Louis Leroy, one of our Memphis members, and a pair of Prothonotary Warblers were given over a half a column of newspaper space May 25. Dr. Leroy's picture was given but since Mr. and Mrs. P. Warbler were out when the newspaper photographer called, only their nesting site was pictured. The latter is reproduced herewith thru the courtesy of Mr. Eldon Roark and the Memphis Press-Scimitar. We quote below from Mr. Roark's 'STROLLING', a very popular and widely read column of interesting local happenings.

"The other Man of the Week is Dr. Louis Leroy, physician and surgeon, river sportsman.

"For the next few weeks Dr. Leroy will forego the pleasures of his cabin cruiser, the Gobbler Um, in order that some old friends of his may raise a family undisturbed.

"Last year, about this time, STROLLING printed an article about a pair of wild canaries— or prothonotary warblers, if you want to go ornithological—that had slipped aboard Dr. Leroy's boat and built a nest in a granite pitcher up on a shelf behind the engine—a pitcher that the doctor used in priming his motor.

"Well, when their presence was discovered, that just about put an end to the Gobble Um's cruising for the time being. Those canaries coudn't be disturbed. And they hatched out four fine youngesters. They grew up and three of them got away to most successful solo flights. One little fellow, however, developed rudder trouble—or sump'n—and made a forced landing on Wolf River. For a few minutes it looked like the end for him, but some boys put out to the rescue in a skiff. After he dried out, he tried to solo again. That time he headed toward land instead of water—and had better luck.

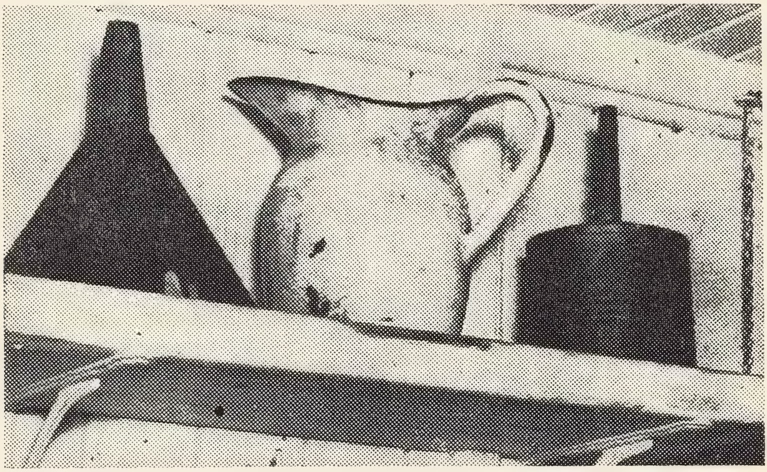
"Anyway, you can guess what has happened, can't you? Yep, Mr. and Mrs. Wild Canary are back—and have built a nest in the same pitcher! It must be the same couple, for it isn't likely that two other canaries would pick out such a place for a nest. It's amazing that even one couple would make such a selection one time.

"The bird commonly called a wild canary is the goldfinch. But, as I say, these are prothonotary warblers, not goldfinches. They are found only along lakes and streams, and fishermen call them wild canaries. Their natural nesting place is in a hollow limb over water.

"The warblers go to Central America—or below—for the winter, and return in the spring. So this couple came thousands of miles— flying without a radio beam or even a compass—and went right back to a pitcher on a shelf behind the engine in a small boat, tied up in Wolf River, Memphis, Tenn., U.S.A. And if that isn't navigating, what is it? Heck, when an aviator hops across the ocean, and, with aid of radio and all kinds of instruments, lands in the city he's aiming at, we say he is sho some flyer. Yet, I don't suppose these little prothonotary warblers think they're doing anything worthy of note.

"But getting back to Dr. Leroy: I say he is a good Man of the Week because he is going to let the Gobbler Um stay right where it is till those birds raise their family. To move the boat right now while Mrs. Warbler is laying, might frighten her away for good. After the young hatch, she won't be so easily frightened.

"If Dr. Leroy wants to breeze around in the river any soon, he'll do it in the outboard motor."



Courtesy of Press-Scimitar.

EDITOR'S NOTE:—The birds entered thru a back window, crossing a large room and passing thru a doorway into the engine room. The pitcher was located on a high shelf just under the ceiling, as shown in the picture above. The engine room has windows on two sides but the windows are normally kept closed.—The male was generally heard singing from the willows bordering Mud Island, across Wolf River from the cruiser and a long line of boat houses moored along the Memphis wharf. The river was full and at that point about 60 yards wide. The female was often seen flying back and forth. I did not have the opportunity to attempt banding the adult or the young warblers. Visits were as follows: May 23, nest completed; May 30, two eggs; June 4, 4 eggs; June 25, gone but reported to have left that morning.—For a bird so associated with our lakes and rivers it seems strange that it should, as often reported, nest in so many unusual places and near man. Several instances have been reported in our pages. This species will occupy bird houses and tin cans nailed up for its use.

# THE BLACK VULTURE IN RUTHERFORD COUNTY

BY H. O. TODD, JR.

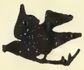
During fifteen years of field work in Tennessee I have found the Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus atratus*) to be my favorite study. This bird is quite common in Rutherford County. Near my home there are three of their roosts, with as many as one hundred and fifty birds using one roost. The latter part of April, 1937, while looking for Vulture nests, I counted fifty-two in one small elm tree.

Here the nesting site of this Vulture is almost always a rocky crevice or a pocket under a large, shelving rock; for there are few hollow trees or logs left in this section. In the past three years, I have located forty nests and have found only three in trees. One of these three was in a tall beech in an opening twenty-five feet from the ground. Great Horned Owls used this nesting site in 1937. The second nest I found in a tree was in a leaning oak large enough for a man to go down into its hollow trunk; inside it the eggs were laid on the level with the ground. The third tree-nest was built in an oak about fifteen feet from the ground in a hole having a spongy mat of dead leaves for the eggs to rest on.

The earliest set of eggs I have noted was one of March 22; the latest set was of May 21. The last date was probably due to the first set being destroyed by some enemy.

I shall try to describe a few nests. The first was one in a large crevice twenty feet long, fifteen feet wide, and twelve feet deep.At one end the rocks formed a shelter for the eggs. On April 6, 1935 I found a set of two eggs in this hole. In this same hole on July 7, 1935 I found another set; one egg was in the process of hatching, the other was addled. I watched this nest very carefully, wishing to band the one bird; I banded it in August, 1935. Due to the depth of this crevice, though, the bird had to be full grown before he could leave it; hence it was eighty-one days after I had banded him before he quit the nest.

On March 27, 1936 I again looked into this nest site and observed one egg. I returned on March 30 and found two eggs where there had been only one. Trying an experiment, I collected these eggs to see how the nesting birds would react. Being in this neighborhood on April 24, I found another set of two eggs and collected them. I returned again on May 19 and I found two more eggs, both fresh, in the same nest. By this time the old bird would not leave but would remain nearby and watch me while I looked at her eggs. With this I ceased trying the patience of the Vultures; I decided to watch the newly laid eggs to learn the time of incubation. I saw one open in thirty-five days and the other in thirty-seven. I have a picture of one of the eggs after it had pipped and another of both birds three days old.



Another nest was on a rocky slope called Wolf Hill. The site was an unusual crevice seventy-five feet long, four feet wide, and six feet deep, broken in the middle by a pocket fifteen feet deep. I discovered a set of two eggs at each end of the crevice. One set was in the open except for a large, flat rock extending across the crevice about three and one-half feet above the eggs. On June 24 I found two Vultures four days old in this crevice. I made another trip on August 4 and took their pictures. They were at that time very hard to hold, and tried to bite me. When I returned August 23, I found both young perched on a large rock close to the nesting hole. When they saw me, they jumped for the nest; but I caught and banded them.

MURFREESBORO, TENN.

# A BACK YARD THEATRE

BY JAMIE ROSS TIPPENS

Perhaps the chief attractions in our back yard are the bird baths. On the brow of a gentle slope in the side yard is a large umbrella-shaped plum tree under which our chairs are placed.. From this 'private box' we look down upon a wide grassy plot with a background of many tall hackberry trees forming vistas of Gothic arches against the sky. Within this grassy space three bird baths are invitingly located, while further back in the rear a spring makes a pool under a willow.

Water seems to attract birds, particularly running water. Often, in the afternoon on hot days I have fixed a spray and before I could get away from it the birds appeared. Cardinals, Robins, and Crested Flycatchers enjoy it. Once a Yellow-billed Cuckoo lay in a puddle and stretched his wings to the descending mist. A little White-eyed Vireo would come to the spray and after prolonged showers, would hop into the bath and take a real ducking, then jump out smartly and fluff up like a yellow ball.

One bath is an up-ended old whisky barrel, the warped bottom of which forms a perfect basin. This place is preferred by Robins, Grackles, Towhees, and Blue Jays. Squirrels also visit it. I have watched many Robins, perched around the edge, several looking fiercely across at each other and snapping their beaks, Meanwhile another plopped down in the middle of the basin, and, with a look of utter satisfaction, had a regular orgy of bathing. Presently the others would start fluttering and dipping with occasional passes at each other. They seemed to have as much fun as a bunch of small boys in a swimming pool. When a Grackle or two appeared on the scene all the Robins left. I liked the way these lordly sleek black rascals walked with unhurried, stately tread around the edge of the bath, carrying their beaks pointed skyward, before they entered. They took very thorough baths, usually getting so wet they could hardly fly. There is something very satisfying about watching a Grackle bathe.

The Towhees, seemed to be modest and in a great hurry, took a few quick dips and were gone before I ever had a chance to study their technique. The Blue Jays had a lot to say before they came down from the trees to drink and bathe. This they did with such gusto and abandon, they frequently spattered out so much water that I had to refill the bath after them. A Blue Jay bathing always reminds me of a glorified cornflower in the rain.

A concrete basin about two feet in diameter and on an 18-inch pedestal is located in the edge of a rock garden, under a little plum tree with another small tree partially screening it. There in this secluded spot the Maryland Yellow-throat, Yellow Warbler, White-eyed Vireo, Brown Thrasher, Mockingbird and Tufted Titmouse came to refresh themselves. This bath seemed to attract the shyer birds. A Catbird came here to drink and bathe at about two o'clock every afternoon in the summer. I have never been able to see a Titmouse bathe,—apparently this species is more shy than the others.

A third bath is another concrete basin only twelve inches across and placed flat on the ground. Each afternoon a family of Mourning Doves would come here to drink. I never saw them bathe. They would fly to a tree nearby and sit quietly for some time, then making up their minds that it was safe, they would fly down, walk around, look at the bath and surroundings carefully,—all preliminary to just taking a drink. This place attracted a Wood Pewee, but he would only sit on a dead limb high above the bath with his shoulders hunched up and look on.

The English Sparrows are the dirtiest, noisiest and most self-assertive things on the place. After dusting themselves in anything from dust to ashes they would congregate in one of the larger bird baths, splash out all of the water and leave such a mess that is was necessary to take a broom and clean up after them. The Mockingbird on the other hand is a dainty bather. He prefers a dripping faucet and a shallow pan and will wait around for some one to fix just the right sort of bath; meanwhile refusing to mix in with the tough sparrows or the other birds, but just let one of them approach his drip!

The best place to watch for migrants was at the willow-shaded spring. From under a rocky bank a trickle of water made a natural pool surrounded by mint and bergamot and somewhat encroached upon by water cress. Here was a seclusiveness that the wildest ones approached with confidence. Waxwings, Indigo Buntings (my husband called them "Blue Pops"), Warblers of all kinds, and Sparrows would come here in the evening about dusk. No other place would attract such a variety. It was here one afternoon that I was attracted by a bird indignation meeting. Jays, Grackles, some Redstarts and other little fellows were seated in the tree while the Mockers were darting down toward the spring. Examining the premises thru binoculars I finally made out a big grey cat hidden in the dry grass and bushes near the little pool. His color so blended and he was so still that only his eyes could be seen at first. My heart stood still,—the foolish birds were flying just above him and I felt sure that he would get one before I could get him. I ran to the house and got the little rifle. Laying it alongside a tree I centered it on his head and saw him give a quivering jerky lurch as the little ball took the interloper out of my bird theatre.

NASHVILLE, TENN.

# BIRDS IN FLIGHT

### BY BENJ R. WARRINER

Amateur bird students should not overlook the opportunities afforded them for better identification of the birds when the birds are on the wing. All of the various species exhibit certain peculiarities of flight. No two kinds react in exactly the same manner to the task of flying. These differences in some cases are very slight, and in other cases widely divergent. No doubt there are many factors that combined, result in a fixed type or style of flying for the members that compose a species. Length of tail as well as its shape, formation of wings, the bird's weight and size, length of neck, size of head, feet—all have a direct bearing on the matter of motion in the air.

When a bird is in flight his wings and tail are outspread and the general contour of his body is easily observed. Folded up, on the ground or in a bush or tree, a bird is one thing; in the air, unfolded, he is a creature of different shape, and he brings into play movements never seen by the observer at any other time. So, when the birds are flying the student may use to advantage these two identification aids: first, the peculiar motion of the bird; and second, the length and breadth of the bird's wings and tail and the general outline of the whole outstretched body.

Frequently it is only necessary for an ornithologist to get the merest passing glimpse of a bird high in the air in order to make sure identification. Color counts for nothing, for color at the time cannot be seen. He depends solely on some idiosyncrasy of motion, and of course on the bird's general size. For instance, the Blue Jay flies slowly and most laboriously. The air taxes his strength and forces him to make a display of his awkwardness. At the other extreme, the cooing Dove is the personification of grace. He flies high, wide, and fast. Approaching his resting place, frequently he swings in slow, easy beats through the last few yards; again, he comes into a tree under full speed and stops almost instantaneously.

The Shrike is another bird that makes a poor showing in the air. He is swift enough when darting down upon his prey, but he flies as though he were afraid he might fall. His whole body seems to be in a nervous kind of jerky motion. Most of the Woodpeckers, too, are awkward on the wing. Smooth and easy effort is lacking; they labor too much to qualify for an award for grace.

The Goldfinch, however, has a flight all his own. He dips up and down in long curve-like motions; and he calls in high-pitched voice all of the time he flies. I have strained my neck many a time looking skyward for an illusive Goldfinch that I could hear but could not see. The bird is a mere sprite and by flying high almost erases himself from view.

Meadowlarks have a habit of sailing through the air, especially when they are near the earth. They have learned how to set their wings and to coast effortless through space. Robins are things of exquisite beauty when high against a background of azure, early on a frosty morning when they are in flight from their roosting grounds to their feeding grounds for the day. Rays from the sun coming up beneath the birds fall upon their red breasts and turn them into splotches of flame. They whistle as they fly and beat their wings hurriedly, though rythmically.

The Yellow-breasted Chat is the clown of the air. He flies with wings and feet flopping and dragging as though they were broken. He runs, skips, and jumps apparently all in one motion. His flight is short, and direct to a perch he returns before he gets fairly started. Cedar Waxwings nearly always go in droves; they fly in a compact body and light in the tree in the same formation. An individual sallies forth a few feet for a gnat; but when one bird leaves the perch for a distant goal, all the others go with him. The Flycatchers are easily identified by their habit of sailing out from a dead limb to snap-up a passing victim. They feed, it seems, almost exclusively from the air and rest on their perches between morsels. Yes, all of the birds have their own peculiar manner of flying. Their outstretched wings, their grace, their clumsiness, their speed, their labor, all are the greatest of helps to the student who would know the birds better.

CORINTH, MISS.

# THE NEW CONSTITUTION

BY DR. GEORGE R. MAYFIELD

For more than twenty years the Tennessee Ornithological Society has transacted business under the provisions of the constitution originally drafted by A. F. Ganier in 1915. In 1921 this constitution was revised to some extent but the changes were inconsequential. The expansion of the Society to a really state-wide status and the gift of $500 to the old affiliated Tennessee Audubon Society gave rise to the hopes that Tennessee might some day have an organization like that of Massachusetts where the funds and the membership are sufficient to finance educational and sanctuary work and to realize worthwhile objectives. With this view in mind President Carter appointed a committee to revise our constitution early last fall and they have held several meetings in Nashville and corresponded with all the chapters with regard to proposed changes.

The adoption of this constitution at the Spring Field Day, May 15, now paves the way for the incorporation of the Tennessee Ornithological Society. Directors were chosen from the various chapters and from the State at large in the proportion of one director for each ten members and part thereof. No chapter, however large, may have more than five Directors, and this insures the right of the smaller Chapters to have a voice in the management of all affairs of said Society.

A most important meeting of the new directors was held at the field day with the usual good will and harmony prevailing. Judge Thomas H. Malone is now arranging for the proper incorporation of the Society under the laws of Tennessee governing such bodies.

Memberships are now classed as Active, Sustaining, Life, Honorary, Corresponding and Junior. This provision makes possible additional types of membership and encourages more generous contributions from those members able to do so and desirous of more adequately promoting bird study and bird conservation.

NASHVILLE, TENN.

# THE ROUND TABLE

THE SEASON AT MEMPHIS:—Dr. C. L. Baker reported a Purple Martin at his box on Mar. 3, a day earlier than earliest date given in last issue. Mr. Guth banded two Martins at a T. O. S. meeting and the writer took them home for the night. Next morning pink celluloid bands were added and the birds were liberated at 7 o'clock. They circled about for two minutes with other Martins that appeared out of nowhere, then all vanished. The two were at Guth's box, 8½ miles south, in 25 minutes—Blue and Snow Geese were heard going over home at 11 and 11:15 P.M., March 12, and heard at 4:30 A.M., March 13, by the Allisons; all three flocks were small.—On May 29 a visit was made to Shelby Forest. A Broad-winged Hawk was seen in the vicinity of the old gravel pit. A few American Egrets were seen, flying singly over the wooded bottomlands towards the river. Northeast of the Forest a Grasshopper Sparrow was heard in a field of oats,—the same location as last June. Towards a nearby wood our first Mississippi Kite of the season passed over. On June 2, two Grasshopper Sparrows were heard near the Penal Farm but about ½ mile from the field where they were heard last July. There are similar likely places in the county but except for our one record inside the city, these two areas are the only places where we have found this species in the summer. It is a common transient near the Lakeview levee.—The highway 'bar-pit' contained water one to three feet deep and Pied-billed Grebes nested there for the first time in three years. Six floating nests were located. On the field day, May 1, one set had hatched a few days previously. Another set was temporarily uncovered for all to see, the nest being about ten feet from dry land and easily visible thru the sparse cover of old weed stalks. A Least Bittern's nest with four eggs was also a special exhibit for those willing to wade a short distance. A King Rail's nest was found there May 8 but on the 14th the young were found to have left the nest about two days before.—Young Rails crossing a highway near Millington, behind an adult bird, were reported during the last of April.—Least Terns, and up to four Black Terns, appeared on Wolf River, downtown, in mid-May. The Leasts became very common the first week in June and up to 120 were estimated there in a half-mile stretch.—Shorebirds were really scarce this spring,—only a few of the common species being seen. Lesser Yellowlegs were first seen about a month after the usual early arrival date. Suitable muddy margins were almost entirely lacking. The migration of Swallows also appeared light.—Our first June record of a Towhee within 80 miles of Memphis was at Ellendale, almost 8 miles east of town, on June 5. At that time the bird sang at length but we were unable to locate it June 11 or June 26. The usual last date of departure is about May 8.—Ben B. Coffey, Jr., Memphis.

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THE SEASON AT CLARKSVILLE:—With the passing of Spring we look back on a season of rather irregular bird migration. The early travellers, probably led on by mild weather, came sooner than expected, but the later migrants did not follow their wing-beat. Purple Martins, early for the third consecutive year, came on March 12. They were seen that day flying to their boxes at two points 5 miles apart.—Some of the shore and water birds remained with us unusually late. On May 2 a Snow Goose stayed again a day or two with tame Geese, apparently friends made in April of the previous year; at least we like to think that it was the same bird, once more northward bound. Since two more birds of this species were seen April 10 on the Cumberland River, we feel that the occurrence of Snow Geese in spring as well as fall is not as rare as we formerly thought. Various species of Sandpipers (Spotted, Solitary, Least and Semi-palmated) were seen till May 19, as were also Semi-palmated Plover and Coot. On the 18th Dr. Pickering, following up the report that a Coot had been seen on Big Beech Pond near town, visited this pond which has an unusually good shore line for 'peeps'. He found the Coot gone but encountered a Black-bellied Plover that was searching in the edge of the water for food. He studied the bird at length with 7-power glasses and compared it on the spot with illustrations. Although lame in one foot the bird otherwise proved in fine shape as it took off in fast flight when finally flushed intentionally. Another new species for our list was the Gambel's Sparrow, one of which was taken April 5 at a local banding station. Two weeks later the bird was again recorded.—Early in April W. M. Noland found a case of melanism in a Cardinal. With the exception of red beak and some red on the shoulders the bird was so dark that it had to be called black. A contrast to this "black Redbird" was a "white Blackbird" or albino Bronzed Grackle that appeared near one of our banding stations on June 16. It walked into a trap two days later and was banded and released. Albinism in this case was complete, all feathers being pure white and the feet, claws, and bill showing pink. The pupils were the typical dark pink while the iris showed the gray of that of the young bird.—ALFRED CLEBSCH, Clarksville

NOTES FROM THE NASHVILLE AREA:—Cedar Waxwings were more abundant this spring than in many years, large flocks being present during April and May, feasting on the hackberries which in some other years have been stripped by Starlings and Robins.—During a trip on the Tennessee River on March 20, the writer observed a Bald Eagle perched on a snag at a point 14 miles north-west of Guntersville; this date would indicate it as nesting nearby. The "pools" created by the new T. V. A. dams on this river, together with the heavily wooded mountain slopes adjacent, will doubtless cause a number of pairs of these fine birds to become permanent residents—A Duck Hawk's nest was reported in Falls Creek State Park in Van Buren Co., by G. R. Mayfield who with a group of T. O. S. members visited this area on June 13. The eyrie was on a ledge of Yellow Bluff, where one of these falcons had been observed at nesting time in a previous year. From across the canyon, three large young could be seen on the ledge where they were being fed by one of the parents. Henry O. Todd informs me that he visited a Duck Hawk's eyrie north of Chattanooga,—one not heretofore reported; the birds were present. This brings the number of Duck Hawks known by the writer to be nesting in Tennessee, up to 15 pair.—A pair of Sharp-shinned Hawks took heavy toll of a flock of Bob-whites that were being fed by B. H. Abernathy on his premises south of the city and he finally succeeded in killing both of the culprits with a rifle. One of them when examined by me was found to have had its thigh bone broken by an earlier shot but the member had healed straight tho encumbered by a large knot about the bone.—A new nesting locality of the Sharp-shinned Hawk was discovered in a pine wood not far from Ashland City and on May 22 the nest of the pair was found containing 5 eggs, incubated about one week.—The King Rail has often been seen in previous years during May, in the river bottom marsh in North Nashville and believed to be nesting there. In this marsh, on May 21, I found a pair tending their week old young ones. One of them, black and the size of a baby chick, dived in the shallow water and held on to the grass roots until it was poked out after at least a minute's submergence.—Prothonotary Warblers often nest in queer places; at Sycamore, on May 15, the T. O. S. Field Day Group found a nest in an angle of the steel bridge, containing 4 eggs, hatching.—Blue Jays, which normally nest in a crotch against the trunk of a tree, had departed far from their custom in a nest found on May 22. They had chosen the rafter-plate at the corner of a high open hay shed and their four young were ready to fly. There were plenty of suitable trees all about.—Cliff Swallows were reported by S. A. Weakley as having arrived at Lock B and D, on the Cumberland, on April 13 and that they had at once started the construction of their nests under the lock wall.—Shorebirds are rarely recorded in numbers in spring near Nashville, due to the fact that most pond levels are up into the grassy borders so that no bare shoreline is exposed. A leak in the 2 acre Donelson pond however on May 15 had left a bare and muddy shore and here the writer and others recorded the following water birds: Green Heron 1, Semi-palmated Plover 1, Killdeer 3, Spotted Sandpiper 4, Solitary Sandpiper 2, Greater Yellowlegs 4, Lesser Yellowlegs 8, Pectoral Sandpiper 1, Least Sandpiper 6, Semi-palmated Sandpiper 4, and Black Tern 8. Of especial interest also, was a pair of Bobolinks, prospecting in the marsh grass at the pond-head.—The Annual Spring Field Day, held at the old Sycamore Powder Mills near Nashville on May 15 ,produced a record list of 118 species, seen there and enroute.—Warblers were unusually scarce during migration this year, there being nothing approaching a "wave" at any time.—The writer's third "expedition" to the Tennessee mountains, worked the Great Smokies from June 12 to 19 and with good weather, the 15 members of the party gathered considerable new information. Some of the results will be published in a future issue.—ALBERT F. GANIER, Nashville, Tenn.

THE SPOTTED SANDPIPER:—Alighting after a short, low flight, it first stands still, to look about, then making a deep bow to the spectator, you might feel complimented by the obeisance, did not the elevation of the rear extremity turned toward you the next minute imply a withering contempt. Bowing first toward you, then from you, the sandpiper resumes his own affairs, only asking that you go right on with yours,. He rarely walks, but runs so fast his long little legs seem to stick out in front and behind him. When his interests bring him nearer you than he really wanted to get, he draws his head back down close between his shoulders,—RUNS past,—and without turning his head a fraction of an inch he gives you a look from the corner of his eye which plainly says, "I never met you, and hope I never shall".—MRS. M. L. HUGHES, Clarksville.

MIXED FLOCKS:—In our issue of Sept., 1937, appeared an article on this subject by Dr. Mayfield and in the October, 1937, issue of *The Auk* we find a review of an article pertaining to similar flocking habits of birds in Australia. The article appeared in *The Emu* V. 37 pp. 254-261, April, 1937, and the review is as follows: "These notes are interesting for comparison with similar habits in small insectivorous species from other lands. Just as in our northern woods, where Chickadees form the activating basis of miscellaneous flocks of warblers, nuthatches, small woodpeckers and kinglets in the autumn, so in Australia the Sittellas (nuthatches) provide leadership, and a mixed flock of various species of small birds troop from tree to tree, always with more or less calling which serves to keep the group together as well perhaps as to space the birds. The cause of such an association is not only the common desire for food at the given time, but no doubt a strong desire for a certain sociability is a chief factor in the cohesion of the group." The same article reviewed in *Bird Banding*, brings out the fact that "The feeding habits of the species showed no overlap, but there probably was disturbance of insects and hence help to each species by the rest. As the author quotes John Burroughs 'Together they made a pretty thorough search,—fine, finer, finest'."—A. F. G.

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CORINTH CHAT:—March 12 brought the season's first Purple Martin. Wood Thrush sang in creek bottom March 31, my earliest record of this minstrel. About April 1, American Goldfinches came to town in literal thousands. For two weeks they remained to arouse almost universal interest among citizens; they were the essence of happiness as they played in yards, along streets, on housetops, perched on electric wires, in trees everywhere. One woman went into her yard to dig up a bountiful crop of dandelions that had bloomed overnight. To her amazement the dandelions flew away, singing derisively but mischievously.—April 3, I saw a pair of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers building a nest 40 feet from ground in crotch of slender ironwood tree. Usually this species builds on a horizontal limb. Prairie Warbler in pine woods west of town; found this Warbler nesting last summer in north Georgia near Lookout Mountain. Audubon saw only one Chestnut-sided Warbler during all of his career. I added the fifth one to my list this spring.—April 24 found nest of Brown Thrashers in low thick shrub in farmyard, with four babies. More Kentucky Warblers this season than usual. One sang near me in woods and I detected notes very similar to certain parts of the song of Carolina Wren. Dickcissels plentiful in Cane Creek meadows 4 miles west.—May 6, I found 500 Bobolinks in blooming vetch field on edge of town. Again on May 8 found flock in another vetch patch. Males predominated No more beautiful sight than a flock of male Bobolinks sailing low over a lush meadow. As they fly they drop their legs straight down, as though too indolent to tuck them up.—Every now and then some bird not supposed to show up in a crowded town area drops down in my tiny backyard. A few days ago an Indigo Bunting came, a female Summer Tanager, a Yellow-breasted Chat and a Maryland Yellow-throat. Earlier in the season a Ruby-crowned Kinglet sang in a bush near my window, and a strange thrush, similar to a Veery, sang timidly in the rain while in thick foliage.—BENJ. R. WARRINER, Corinth, Miss.

A SCREECH OWL FISHERMAN:—On the night of April 27, 1938, while frog hunting on the Poorlands Valley section of Norris Lake, the boat was moving slowly along a rather bluff-like bank when I was startled by a splash at the lake margin about 20 feet away. Instantly spotting the source of the splash with my flashlight I saw a moving object on a rock some 3 feet above the recently disturbed surface of the lake. My paddler immediately asked me what the object was, but I was unable to answer for a few seconds until I finally saw that it was a Screech Owl (in the red phase) holding in its bill a struggling minnow. It gave the little Owl at first the appearance of having a long shiny bill and made it look most unusual.

I cannot claim that I saw the Owl fishing, but I did hear a splash just under the rock on which the bird was perched and the Owl certainly did have a small fish in its bill. The rock was almost over the water, but was much too far above the water for even a large fish to have jumped onto it. The Owl must certainly have taken the fish from the water.—Jim Trent, Jr., Knoxville

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A STARLING ROOST:—The cedar thickets on the hills about 7 miles north of Murfreesboro, have been a favorite roosting place for Grackles, Crows, Cowbirds, Starlings and Robins for a number of years. In winters gone by, these roosts were raided by the natives with sticks, torches, and bags and many of the birds were taken to make 'pot-pie.' Mr. H. O. Todd of Murfreesboro reported on his Xmas census that the roosts were being used by thousands of Starlings; so on the evening of last Jan. 8. Mr. A. F. Ganier and the writer called by for him and made a visit to the roost. Our purpose was to catch and band as many of the birds as we could, for the cedars were low and the birds could be reached by hand. Unfortunately for our purpose, however, we found that raids for Starlings had been made a few nights before, with guns and sticks, and the flocks of birds which appeared, passed on to the west. By dusk, however, a flock of about 4000 had assembled and covered the limbs of a large bare tree like so many leaves. From here they made sorties for a roosting place, flying in rapid, compact flight, like a well drilled regiment of soldiers and making a very beautiful exhibition for us. They finally, at nearly dark, selected a large cedar tree that stood alone in a meadow and as they entered this tree it seemed impossible to us that such a cloud of birds could all find a place to perch upon its branches. When they had all settled, and it had become nearly dark, we walked about under the tree, listening to their mutterings and chatterings overhead but they did not elect to fly out even tho we could be plainly seen below.—Arthur McMurray, Nashville.

BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR 1937:—Papers and notes on Tennessee birds which have appeared in other journals during the past calendar year are briefly listed as follows: In *The Wilson Bulletin*: March, Vol. 49, pp. 15-16, "Further Notes On A Very Old Cardinal" by A. F. Ganier—A male Cardinal banded at the author's home, Feb. 12, 1924 and under observation from 1933 to date of writing, shows sign of age after the nesting season of 1936. A note added Feb. 15, 1937, states this bird was last seen Nov. 20, 1936.—In *Inland Bird Banding News*: December, Vol. 9, p. 9, "Report of Amelia R. Laskey, Councilor for Tennessee," includes some recovery records.—In *Journal of the Tennessee Academy of Science*: January, Vol. 12, pp. 114-128, "Summer Birds of Reelfoot Lake" by Wendell Whittemore. A list of 116 species, with notes, observed during twelve weeks of the summer of 1936. Miscellaneous items and an article by A. F. Ganier also appeared in *Tennessee Wildlife.*

## MEETINGS

Notification of the following meeting dates have been received. CLARKSVILLE: July 5, 19; Aug. 2, 16, 30; call or write to Alfred Clebsch who is secretary. MEMPHIS: Meetings will resume the third Monday in Sept. and are held at two week intervals except for holidays or in case of special programs. Sunday afternoon trips to Mud Lake are being planned for Mid-August and Mid-September. Mrs. T. I. Klyce, Raleigh, Tenn., is secretary.

ANNUAL T. O. S. MEETING:—Once again the picturesque setting of the old Powder Mill on Sycamore Creek near Ashland City became the scene of the annual meeting and spring field day of the T. O. S. On May 15 the Nashville chapter, following its custom, acted as host to the representatives that came from other parts of the state. Knoxville, Memphis, Columbia, Pulaski, Murfreesboro, and Clarksville were well accounted for. Out-of-state visitors included Mr. and Mrs. John Bamberg from Scottsboro, Ala., Dr. Gordon Wilson of Bowling Green, Ky. and Mr. Starr from Glasgow, Ky. A total of 77 attended. The new officers and directors (listed elsewhere) were elected and plans were laid for another year of growth and progress for our organization. The feeling of companionship was of the finest and the field work brought good results as listed in 'Nashville notes'.—ALFRED CLEBSCH, Secty.-Treas.

OTHER FIELD DAYS:—The first spring field day of the Clarksville Chapter was held April 24 along Spring Creek near the state line. Messrs. Ganier, Vaughn, Robins, Rippey and McMurray from Nashville joined 11 members of the local chapter. 64 species of birds, including a number of first spring arrivals, were listed at the site. A Winter Wren and two Lincoln Sparrows, all identified by Mr. Ganier, were among the best finds.

The annual spring field day of the Memphis Chapter was held May 1 and, as usual, at Lakeview on the Miss. state line. The wooded bottomlands were flooded but a good list was secured on higher ground. Practically no shorebirds were recorded (nor at any time this season) and the list total was about 100. Over 80 attended and we were glad to have with us Mr. Carter, T. O. S. president, and three of his young proteges from Nashville; from Arkansas—Dr. W. H. Deaderick of Hot Springs, Mr. and Mrs. M. H. Oldham of Crawfordsville, and Mr. C. M. Owens of Monticello; and from Rosedale, Miss., Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Vaiden, Sammy Ray, Bobby Linnell and two guests.

# THE MIGRANT

A QUARTERLY JOURNAL, DEVOTED TO THE STUDY OF TENNESSEE BIRDS.

PUBLISHED BY THE TENNESSEE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY.
Editor, Ben B. Coffey, Jr., 672 N. Belvedere, Memphis.
Secretary-Treasurer, Alfred Clebsch, 838 Gracey Ave.. Clarksville.
Regional Editors: Albert F. Ganier, Nashville; Harry P. Ijams, Knoxville; Bruce P. Tyler, Johnson City; Alfred Clebsch, Clarksville.
Business Manager, Vernon Sharp, Jr., 225 Capitol Blvd., Nashville.
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Items for publication should be sent to the Editor.

*"The simple truth about birds is interesting enough,*
*it is not necessary to go beyond it."*

In the September issue we plan to tabulate for different points throughout Tennessee, lists of the most common summer residents. From the city chapters and older and more experienced observers we are asking for a list of the ten most common species in relative order. A brief statement as to the area for which the list applies (preferably an entire county or a large section of one) and the general type of country, should accompany the list. To our other members throughout the state I am personally requesting that you notice particularly the most common birds this summer in your community and send me such a list. If you desire, limit the list to five species. We should all "do it ourselves" if we expect results from any projects of the Society. Here is a chance to test our co-operative ability and also increase our list of contributors to *The Migrant*

It is suggested that you prepare such a list now. You'll change it several times before you send it in. Even than you'll not be sure of some of the rankings but do not let that deter you. Following the example of the Nashville Chapter about six years ago I prepared a list of 15 summer residents in order of abundance for Shelby County. Today I believe, any list I would prepare would probably differ at many points. But it's best to think it over and put it down for a starting point anyway.

Please send in these lists not later than Aug. 25. Receipt by Aug. 15 will save me writing you. All other copy should reach me not later than Sept. 10,—except for seasonal notes, the earlier the better. At present our 'copy' file is practically exhausted. We hope to have 28 pages in September. So please send in feature articles and miscellaneous notes. The field of bird study is inexhaustible. There's time this summer for the preparation of much 'copy'. Perhaps there are some notes or data you may have put off preparing. It's your *Migrant*. Don't let that membership list frighten you. Remember we have a responsibility "to record and encourage the study of birds in our section."

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| Abernathy, Mrs. B. H., Hobbs Road, Route No. 5 | 1935 |
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| Bailey, James, State Dep't. of Conservation | 1938 |
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| Duncan, Mrs. Sanford, 207 Union Street | 1921 |
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| French, Miss Jessie, 1715 Eastland Ave | 1929 |
| Ganier, Albert F., 2507 Ashwood Ave., FOUNDER | 1915 |
| Ganier, Mrs. Albert F., 2507 Ashwood Ave | 1935 |
| Glenn, Dr. L. C., c/o Vanderbilt University | 1931 |
| Goodpasture, Mrs. Henry, Hood's Hill Road | 1938 |
| Goodpasture, Ken, Hood's Hill Road | 1938 |
| Harris, Mrs. Rosa R., 1620 Villa Place | 1936 |

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| Hayes, Dr. Wayland J., c/o Vanderbilt University | 1930 |
| Hind, Carswell, 1405 Ashwood Ave. | 1936 |
| Hollinger, Miss Alma, c/o Ward-Belmont College | 1922 |
| Howard, Stephen H. H., 810 Broad Street | 1933 |
| Ingersoll, Mrs. A. W., 2121 Garland Ave. | 1934 |
| Jacobs, Mrs. Louise Burr, 1918 19th Ave. S. | 1938 |
| Jamison, Conrad, 1407 Ashwood Ave. | 1937 |
| Laskey, Mrs. F. C., Graybar Lane | 1928 |
| Lawrence, Steven, 2609 Woodlawn Drive | 1937 |
| Lawrence, Francis, 2609 Woodlawn Drive | 1937 |
| Lee, Miss Mary L., c/o East Nashville High School | 1936 |
| Loveman, Mrs. A. L., 200 24th Ave. S. | 1920 |
| Lyne, Lewis, Ridgetop, Tenn. | 1932 |
| McIntyre, Miss Margaret A., 1806 18th Ave. S. | 1931 |
| McMullan, Miss Lois, 2105½ Dixie Place | 1934 |
| McMurray, Arthur, 2110 Jones Ave. | 1936 |
| Malone, Judge Thomas, Belle Meade | 1935 |
| Mayfield, Dr. Geo. R., c/o Vanderbilt University, FOUNDER | 1915 |
| Mayfield, Mrs. Geo. R., c/o Vanderbilt University | 1918 |
| Milliken, Miss Margaret, 925 Douglas Ave. | 1937 |
| Monk, Harry C., Avoca Apt., 3108 Long Blvd. | 1919 |
| Newman, Miss Lela Carr, Box No. 3, Peabody College | 1935 |
| Orr, Mrs. Robert, Jr., Route No. 1, Madison, Tenn. | 1933 |
| Pearson, C. E., 1507 Stratton Ave. | 1937 |
| Peebles, Mrs. M. C., 1814 Cephas Ave. | 1938 |
| Phillips, Dr. Jno. H., 2117 Blair Blvd. | 1921 |
| Pond, Mrs. Walter F., 332 Chesterfield Ave. | 1938 |
| Pond, Franklin, 332 Chesterfield Ave. | 1937 |
| Pruette, Mrs. Olah, State Museum, Memorial Bldg. | 1937 |
| Ramsdell, Dr. E. T., School of Religion, Vanderbilt University | 1937 |
| Rich, Miss Amy, 1922 Convent Place | 1935 |
| Rippy, Leo, Jr., 515 Orient Circle | 1935 |
| Robins, Prof. James, c/o Vanderbilt University | 1921 |
| Ruef, Miss Frances, 306 22nd Ave., N. | 1937 |
| Schreiber, E. D., c/o Tenn. Industrial School | 1931 |
| Sharp, Vernon, Jr., 225 Capitol Blvd. | 1921 |
| Shaver, Dr. Jesse M., c/o Peabody College | 1916 |
| Simpson, William, Hobbs Road | 1936 |
| Talley, Mrs. N. W., 1605 Villa Place | 1937 |
| Tanksley, Mrs. Laura Hayes, Franklin Road | 1936 |
| Thompson, S. B., Memorial Bldg. | 1938 |
| Tippens, Mrs. C. B., 2010 15th Ave. S. | 1933 |
| Tompkins, Mrs. E. C., Shepard Place, Belle Meade | 1935 |
| Tompkins, Miss Cynthia, Shepard Place, Belle Meade | 1932 |
| Trabue, Chas. C., Route No. 2, Harding Road | 1934 |
| Trabue, Mrs. Chas. C., Route No. 2, Harding Road | 1934 |
| Underwood, Mrs. Newton, 198 Kenner Ave. | 1937 |
| Vaughn, Dr. Harry S., 2525 Hillsboro Road | 1916 |
| Warden, Miss Margaret L., 1806 East Belmont Circle | 1930 |
| Weakley, S. A., 2901 Westmoreland Drive | 1933 |
| Weakley, Mrs. S. A., 2901 Westmoreland Drive | 1933 |
| Webb, A. C., 908 Meridian Street, FOUNDER | 1915 |
| Wilson, R. A., 1515 McGavock Street | 1917 |
| Williams, Miss Clara, 1311 Ordway Place | 1937 |
| Witt, Arthur A., 2405 Elliott Ave. | 1938 |
| Wolfe, Miss Martha Ellen, 2417 Garland Ave. | 1937 |
| Womack, W. C., c/o University Club | 1936 |
| Woodring, Geo. B., 1705 Cedar Lane | 1927 |
| Yarbrough, G. McTyeire, 1511 Eastland Ave. | 1933 |

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|---|---|
| Calhoun, John B., c/o U. S. Hayes, Cabell Ave., University, Va. | 1932 |

## MEMPHIS CHAPTER

| | |
|---|---|
| Allison, Mr. and Mrs. A. D., 756 Baltic | 1936 |
| Baker, Dr. C. L., 767 West Drive | 1937 |
| Baker, Prof. Clinton L., 1685 Tutwiler Ave | 1938 |
| Burdick, Austin, Jr., Yates Avenue | 1938 |
| Carney, Fred W., 2052 Linden Ave | 1934 |
| Carney, Miss Marjorie, 3995 Summer Ave | 1938 |
| Coffey, Ben B., Jr., 672 North Belvedere | 1926 |
| Coffey, Mrs. Ben B., Jr., 672 North Belvedere | 1931 |
| Counce, Dr. Cynthia C., Lynnhurst Sanitarium, Oakville | 1934 |
| Counce, E. W., Oakville, Tenn | 1938 |
| Crump, Dabney H., P. O. Box 213 | 1933 |
| Crump, Mrs. Dabney H., P. O. Box 213 | 1933 |
| Cummins, Mrs. Lee, Director, Memphis Museum | 1937 |
| Davant, Miss Mary, 694 Landis | 1929 |
| Davidson, John, Y.M.C.A | 1938 |
| Ellis, Emmett, 1667 South Parkway, East | 1938 |
| Elphingstone, Harold, 3735 Southern Ave | 1935 |
| Embury, Jack, Route 2, Box 73, Germantown (1929) | 1935 |
| Epperson, Mrs. T. C., 3304 Powell | 1937 |
| Fiedler, Fred, Jr., 822 St. Charles | 1938 |
| First Memphis Rovers, Troop 1,, BSA, Care Ben Coffey | 1931 |
| Govert, Mrs. George W., 3528 Midland | 1935 |
| Guth, Mr. and Mrs. L. G., (Whitehaven) Route 1, Box 545 | 1936 |
| Hale, Miss Katherine, 1125 Minna Pl | 1938 |
| Hall, Miss Jacqueline, 1126 Poplar Ave. (1929) | 1938 |
| Humphreys, Miss Margaret, 1957 Court Ave | 1938 |
| Jameson, Miss Julia, 1915 Union Ave | 1938 |
| Jolly, J. E., 2465 Yale Ave | 1938 |
| Keith, Miss Wilma, 1229 Carr Ave | 1938 |
| Kent, Lawrence, 1895 Cowden Ave | 1937 |
| Klyce, Mrs. T. I., James Road | 1936 |
| LaCour, Joe, 1947 Snowden Ave | 1938 |
| Leroy, Dr. Louis, 1168 Poplar Ave | 1933 |
| Maury, Mrs. John M. Sr., 567 East Parkway, South | 1932 |
| Moore, Dr. C. E., 439 Patterson St | 1933 |
| Peete, Russell, 1827 South Parkway, East | 1937 |
| Pond, John, 1776 North Parkway | 1935 |
| Porter, Mrs. Arthur R., Jr., 2121 Poplar Ave | 1938 |
| Rucker, Dr. S. T., Lynnhurst Sanitarium, Oakville | 1936 |
| Seffens, Miss Virginia, 2400 Autumn Ave | 1938 |
| Shaffer, Jack, 2059 Cowden Ave | 1937 |
| Simpson, Tom, 81 Stonewall Pl | 1937 |
| Smith, Miss Alice, 672 North Belvedere | 1933 |
| Spain, John, Yates Avenue | 1938 |
| Taylor, Richard, Jr., 1891 Autumn Ave | 1937 |
| Vardaman, James, 640 Anderson | 1938 |
| Walker, Billy, 1966 Snowden Ave | 1938 |
| Welch, Ben, 1946 Snowden Ave | 1938 |
| Whittemore, Wendell, 1276 Linden Ave | 1935 |
| Wilson, Dr. and Mrs. L. P., 41 East Mallory Ave | 1937 |

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| Hovis, Robt. L., Jr., Box 2177 Yale Sta. New Haven, Conn | 1934 |
| McCamey, Franklin, Box 1684 Yale Sta., New Haven, Conn | 1934 |
| Powell, Albert, U. S. S. S21, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii | 1935 |
| Wallace, Eugene, Box 1656, University, La | 1938 |

## KNOXVILLE CHAPTER

| | |
|---|---|
| Baird, Charles, 1631 Laurel Ave | 1936 |
| Beard, Miss Mary, 406 E. 5th Ave | 1931 |
| Bond, Miss Lora, 3476 Alta Vista Way | 1935 |
| Chiles, Miss Mary Ruth, 1817 Highland Ave | 1932 |
| Crouch, Brockway, Brooks Road | 1923 |
| Foster, Geo. W., Jr., 15 West Circle Drive, Norris ,Tenn | 1934 |

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|---|---|
| Hay, John J., Island Home Pike | 1927 |
| Henry, Dr. Earl O., 206 W. Glenwood | 1929 |
| Ijams, H. P., Island Home Pike | 1923 |
| Ijams, Mrs. H. P., Island Home Pike | 1923 |
| Johnson, Wm. M., Riverside Road, R. No. 4 | 1927 |
| Johnson, Mrs. Wm. M., Riverside Road, R. No. 4 | 1927 |
| Leonhard, Mrs. Frank, 203 Elmwood | 1934 |
| McGriff, Miss Mary O., 1631 Laurel Ave. | 1938 |
| Meyer, Prof. Henry, Alsie Drive | 1938 |
| Meyer, Mrs. Henry, Alsie Drive | 1938 |
| Ogden, S. A., 201 E. 5th Ave. | 1923 |
| Picklesimer, Mrs. W. H., Highland Drive | 1937 |
| Powers, Dr. E. B., 133 E. Hillvale | 1923 |
| Ressler, Prof. B. C. V., Forest Heights | 1923 |
| Trent, James A. Jr., 2104 Magnolia | 1926 |
| Tuell, A. R., 1985 Branson Ave. | 1938 |
| Walker, W. M., Jr., Apt. 10, 1825 W. Clinch Ave. | 1922 |
| Walker, Mrs. W. M., Jr., Apt. 10, 1825 W. Clinch Ave. | 1935 |
| Williams, Miss Dorothy E., Apt. 1, Kingston Manor | 1938 |
| Wing, Dr. Leonard Wm., 131 Orchard Road, Norris Tenn. | 1938 |
| Wing, Mrs. Leonard Wm., 131 Orchard Road, Norris, Tenn. | 1938 |

### BLUE GRASS CHAPTER

| | |
|---|---|
| Brown, John, Flintville | 1937 |
| Claggett, Alfred E., Wales, Giles Co. | 1936 |
| Cooper, Mrs. R. B., Mt. Pleasant | 1938 |
| Elam, Miss Mittie, Columbia | 1937 |
| Gartner, Mrs. Bessie, Columbia | 1938 |
| Gray, Dan R., Box 235, Mt. Pleasant | 1916 |
| Gray, Dan R., Jr., Box 235, Mt. Pleasant | 1937 |
| Harlan, Mrs. Alan B., Box 34, Route 3, Columbia | 1937 |
| McKinney, R. L., Columbia | 1938 |
| Morgan, Mrs. Wm. P., "Oaklee", Columbia | 1916 |
| Murrey, Ogilvie, Cornersville Pike, Lewisburg | 1938 |
| Murrey, Miss Waverly, Cornersville Pike, Lewisburg | 1938 |
| Ridley, W. P., Clifton Place, Jackson Highway, Columbia | 1938 |
| Porter, Dr. O. J., Columbia | 1936 |
| Rogers, Mrs. Sam H., 315 Flower Street, Pulaski | 1935 |
| Scott, Leland, Box 163, Mt. Pleasant | 1936 |
| Sowell, Miss Ione, Columbia | 1938 |
| Staples, Mrs. Cleve J., 120 Second Street, Pulaski | 1936 |
| Stewart, W. A., R. F. D., No. 3, Fayetteville | 1935 |
| Stone, Porter, Pulaski | 1938 |
| Wagstaff, Miss Etta, Lynnville | 1931 |
| Williamson, Dr. George C., Columbia | 1935 |
| Yeatman, Harry, Route 1, Columbia | 1934 |
| Zumbro, Mrs. J. W., 304 Haynes Street, Lewisburg | 1938 |

### CLARKSVILLE CHAPTER

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|---|---|
| Armstrong, Lamar, 619 Madison Street | 1936 |
| Clebsch, Alfred, 838 Gracey Ave. | 1936 |
| Clebsch, Alfred, Jr., 838 Gracey Ave. | 1936 |
| Clebsch, William A., 838 Gracey Ave. | 1936 |
| Clebsch, Edward, 838 Gracey Ave. | 1937 |
| Collier, Clarence, Jr., Greenwood Ave. | 1936 |
| Foust, Tom, Jr., 319 Home Avenue | 1937 |
| Hughes, Mrs. M. L., 503 Madison Street | 1937 |
| Hutchison, Mrs. John Y., Cumberland Terrace | 1936 |
| McBride, Miss Wanda, Cumberland Terrace | 1937 |
| Marshall, Miss Adine, 1232 Madison Street | 1937 |
| Moore, Mrs. C. H., Greenwood Ave. | 1936 |
| Noland, Wm. M., 717 Madison Street | 1936 |
| Peay, Mrs. Austin, 619 Madison Street | 1936 |
| Pickering, Dr. Chas. F., 324 Greenwood Ave. | 1936 |

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| Pickering, Mrs. Chas. F., 324 Greenwood Ave. | 1936 |
| Sharpe, Mrs. J. R., 426 Cumberland Drive | 1937 |
| Stainbrook, Chas. | 1937 |

### TENNESSEE AT LARGE

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|---|---|
| Adams, Rev. A. C., Scoutmaster, Troop 103, B.S.A., Tracy City | 1938 |
| Arnold, Walter, 507 Pearl Street, Bristol, Va. | 1934 |
| Black, Dr. James B., c/o Health Unit, Murfreesboro | 1935 |
| Burelbach, Major M. J., 510 West Fourth Street, Chattanooga | 1935 |
| Butts, Dr. Wilbur K., University of Chattanooga, Chattanooga | 1933 |
| Cahn, Dr. Alvin R., c/o T. V. A., Norris | 1936 |
| Counce, Howard, Counce, Hardin Co. | 1937 |
| Crosswy, Paul, Paris | 1937 |
| Davis, Prof. George, Sta. A, State Teachers College, Murfreesboro | 1931 |
| Dorsey, Mrs. A. L., 308 N. Main Street, Springfield | 1936 |
| Driver, Russell B., 1706 Windsor Ave., Bristol | 1933 |
| Durand, Forrest V., c/o U. S. Soil Conservation Service, Springfield | 1938 |
| Dyer, Mrs. Minnie M., Byington | 1931 |
| Eagle, Mrs. John H., Sparta | 1932 |
| Endsley, Prof. J. R., Freed-Hardeman College, Henderson | 1938 |
| Fowler, E. P., Celina | 1935 |
| Fuller, Mrs. C. E., Fuller's Ridge, Route 6, Chattanooga | 1936 |
| Hyder, A. E., 908 West Maple Street, Johnson City | 1938 |
| Knox, Miss Mamie, Milan | 1937 |
| Lyle, Robert B., W. Unaka Avenue, Johnson City | 1931 |
| Marsh, Albert J., c/o Soil Conservation Service, Humboldt | 1937 |
| Merritt, Dixon c/o Lebanon Democrat, Lebanon, FOUNDER | 1915 |
| Moorman, Miss Anne Armstrong, Somerville | 1935 |
| Morrison, W. P., Dickson | 1935 |
| Neal, Billy, Head Street, Paris | 1937 |
| Plummer, Cameron McR., c/o St. Catherine's, Bolivar | 1936 |
| Reed, Miss Willie Ruth, R. F. D., No. 1, Greeneville | 1937 |
| Smith, W. Fulton, c/o First National Bank, Bristol | 1934 |
| Stupka, Arthur, Great Smoky Mts. Nat. Park, Gatlinburg | 1935 |
| Tyler, Bruce P., 215 Unaka Ave. Johnson City | 1932 |
| Todd, Henry O., Woodbury Pike, Murfreesboro | 1935 |
| Upperman, Harry L., Baxter Institute, Baxter | 1934 |
| Williams, Samuel M., Eagleville | 1937 |
| Woods, Dr. M. C., Paris | 1937 |

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| Goetz, Christian J., SUSTAINING MEMBER (1938), 3503 Middleton Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio | 1933 |
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| Allen, Dr. Arthur A., Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y. | 1937 |
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| Bacon, Brasher C., Madisonville, Ky. | 1934 |
| Ball, Robert E., 2622 Tuscarawas St. W., Canton, Ohio | 1938 |
| Bamberg, John, Box 329, Scottsboro, Ala. | 1928 |
| Bent, A. C., 140 High Street, Taunton, Mass. | 1933 |
| Bishop, Dr. Louis B., 450 Bradford St., Pasadena, Cal. | 1933 |
| Carpenter, Floyd S., 2402 Longest Ave., Louisville, Ky. | 1935 |
| Chapman, Dr. Frank M., American Mus. Nat. History, New York, N. Y. | 1932 |
| Charles, Mrs. G. E., R. No. 1, Box 7A, New Brookland, S. C. | 1937 |
| Cook, Miss Fannye A., Miss. Game & Fish Com., Box 451, Jackson, Miss. | 1935 |
| Crook, Compton, Matthew Whaley School, Williamsburg, Va. | 1927 |
| Curtis, George M., Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio | 1915 |
| Deaderick, Dr. William H., 36 Circle Drive, Hot Springs, Ark. | 1936 |
| Deane, Miss Amy, 2313 Hale Street, Louisville, Ky. | 1937 |
| Ellis, Ralph, 2420 Ridge Road, Berkeley, Calif. | 1933 |
| Eyles, Don, 664 Linwood Ave. N. E., Atlanta, Ga. | 1937 |
| Floyd, Judge Joseph L., Canton, Ohio | 1933 |
| Fitz-Gerald, Mrs. Chas. A., R. No. 5, N. Geyer Road, Webster Groves, Mo. | 1935 |
| Frazer, Dr. T. Atchison, Marion, Ky. | 1932 |

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| Grayson, Miss Marie, Moselle, Miss. | 1936 |
| Guion, Geo. Seth, 2035 Octavia Street, New Orleans, La., | 1933 |
| Harris, Mrs. Hugh Henry, Emory University, Ga. | 1931 |
| Hickey, J. J., 2952 Marion Ave., New York, N. Y. | 1937 |
| Hobson, Mrs. L. G., 404 Wallace Ave., Louisville, Ky. | 1935 |
| Hoyt, J. Southgate Y., No. 5 Lewis Street, Lexington, Va. | 1937 |
| Ingersoll, Mrs. Raymond V., 380 Clinton Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y. | 1937 |
| Johnson, Miss Arlene, 7929 Lafayette St., Chicago, Ill. | 1934 |
| Kalter, Louis B., 535 Belmont Park, Dayton, Ohio | 1935 |
| Kennedy, E. J., Southeast National Bank Bldg., Chicago, Ill. | 1937 |
| Komarek, Roy, 133½ S. Salisbury Street, Raleigh, N. C. | 1934 |
| Lamon, J. C., Hiwassee Dam, N. C. | 1936 |
| Lowery, George H., Jr., La. State University, Baton Rouge, La. | 1938 |
| McIlhenny, Edward A., Avery Island, La. | 1935 |
| Maslowski, Karl, 950 Glenwood Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio | 1934 |
| Mellor, Mrs. Marshall, 3112 Oriole Drive, Louisville, Ky. | 1936 |
| Mengel, Robert, Commodore Apts., Louisville, Ky. | 1937 |
| Miller, Rev. Percy, Christ Church, Collinsville, Ill. | 1936 |
| Monroe, Burt, 110 South Fifth Street, Louisville, Ky. | 1934 |
| Oldham, M. H., Crawfordsville, Ark. | 1937 |
| Owens, C. M., Route 2, Monticello, Ark. | 1934 |
| Pattie, Dr. Frank A., Jr., Rice Institute, Houston, Texas | 1935 |
| Perkins, Samuel E., 3rd, 709 Inland Bldg., Indianapolis, Ind. | 1938 |
| Pitelka, Frank A., 7337 Ogden Ave. Lyons, Ill. | 1937 |
| Pollard, Ewell L., Box 483, Florence, Ala. | 1936 |
| Reed, Miss Georgia, 4114 W. Monroe Street, Seattle, Wash. | 1934 |
| Rice, Mrs. Bird W., Cynthiana, Ky. | 1937 |
| Richards, Edward C. M., Nur Mahal, R. D. 4, West Chester, Pa. | 1935 |
| Riley, J. H., U. S. National Museum, Washintgon, D. C. | 1934 |
| Roberts, Dr. Thos. S., University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minn. | 1935 |
| Saunders, W. E., 352 Clarence St., London, Ontario, Canada | 1931 |
| Schneider, Miss Evelyn J., 2207 Alta Ave., Louisville, Ky. | 1935 |
| Schuler, Mrs. Bertha, 1703 Arch Ave., Seattle, Wash. | 1936 |
| Slack, Miss Mabel, 1004 Everett Ave., Louisville, Ky. | 1934 |
| Steagall, Dr. Mary M., 808 South Illinois Ave. Carbondale, Ill. | 1935 |
| Stoddard, Herbert L., Sherwood Plantation, Thomasville, Ga. | 1934 |
| Thompson, Buster, Box 926, Greenwood, Miss. | 1932 |
| Tomkins, Ivan R., U. S. Dredge "Welatka" Savannah, Ga. | 1938 |
| Tucker, Mrs. Carll, 733 Park Ave., New York, N. Y. | 1933 |
| Vaiden, M. Gordon, Box 248, Rosedale, Miss. | 1936 |
| Walker, Mrs. Emily B., E. Texas State Teachers College, Commerce, Tex., | 1931 |
| Warriner, Benjamin, c/o H. N. Young & Co., Corinth Miss. | 1933 |
| Wetmore, Dr. Alexander, U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C. | 1937 |
| White, J. S., 2207 Lincolnwood Road, Highland Park, Ill. | 1935 |
| Wiles, Dr. H. O., 6054 Ingleside Ave. So., Chicago, Ill. | 1934 |
| Wilkerson, Mrs. Herman R., 612 9th Ave., Huntingdon, W. Va. | 1936 |
| Wilson, Dr. Gordon, 1434 Chestnut Street, Bowling Green, Ky. | 1931 |
| Wilson, Miss Gypsy, Pineville, Ky. | 1937 |
| Young, James Boswell, 614 Louisville Trust Bldg., Louisville, Ky. | 1938 |
| Yunker, Miss Emilie, 1140 Everett Ave., Louisville, Ky. | 1931 |

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The members listed above are divided as follows: Nashville, 89; Memphis, 54; Knoxville, 27; Blue Grass, 24; Clarksville, 18; Tennessee At Large, 33; and Corresponding Members, 72. Total, 337. Secretary Clebsch is due a vote of thanks from your Editor for preparing the list, we both hope it is correct. Please call Mr. Clebsch's attention to any errors so that his present records may be corrected. New members added during the year will be published next June. Let's plan a good, steady growth!

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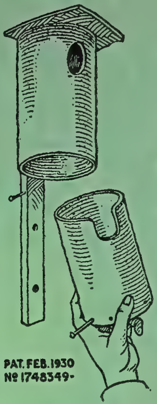

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DEVOTED TO TENNESSEE BIRDS

Published by
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## SOME JUNE BIRDS OF THE GREAT SMOKIES

By Albert F. Ganier and Alfred Clebsch

Experiences with birds that are rare in one's own State or which can only be found there in very limited areas, must always bring a thrill to the bird student. It was the good fortune of a group of T.O.S. members* to enjoy such experiences when from June 13 to 20, 1938, they spent the time observing and listing birds in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, chiefly at the higher altitudes.

Our group made headquarters at Gatlinburg, being comfortably housed there in tourist cottages, for which arrangements and other favors, we were indebted to our fellow member, Mr. Arthur Stupka, Park Naturalist. Early each morning our party motored to "the tops," usually to Newfound Gap, and from there worked the State-line ridge which forms a lengthy backbone, extending for many miles.

On these trips we covered Mt. Le Conte — 6593 feet above sea level, Alum Cave and Peregrine Cliff—4700, The Jump-off and Mt. Kephart—6200, Newfound Gap — 5045, Indian Gap — 5265, Mt. Collins — 6125, Andrews' Bald — 5860, Clingman's Dome — 6642 and the State-line ridge to Siler's Bald — 5620 feet. June 16 was spent in and about Cade's Cove and from there a part of our group hiked to the nearby tops where, on Spence Field Bald — 4886, they had the pleasure of flushing two Golden Eagles from the ground, the spot being marked by the bones and fur of a fox. The eagles arose, when surprised at close range, and majestically soared away. We were told later, by Miss Agnes Milger of Cleveland, who with her father had been on this 'bald' on June 12, that on that day they had found the torn body of a fox lying on the ground and that a large bird was seen circling overhead—doubtless the same scene that our party was to come upon four days later. Several of these birds, which had been trapped near Nashville a few years ago, were 'exiled' to the Park and it is hoped that the pair seen on Spence Field were of those that had been released.

The Duck Hawk, or Peregrine Falcon, is one of those rare and spectacular birds which all ornithologists who visit the Park hope to see and

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*Those who composed the party were Alfred Clebsch and his son Alfred, Jr., Ben B. and Mrs. Coffey, George Davis, Albert F. Ganier, Robert Mengel, Chas. F. Pickering, Misses Willie Ruth Reed, Evelyn Schneider, Mabel Slack and Emilie Yunker, Arthur Stupka, Eugene Wallace, W. M. and Mrs. Walker, Mrs. C. A. Barefield and son, Leroy. A series of photo reproductions to illustrate this article will be found on another page.

OCT 24 1938

our group was not disappointed. On June 13, we were on the observation tower on top of Clingman's, looking over the pointed tops of the fir trees and into the ragged gorges to the northwest, when suddenly we caught sight of one of the falcons sweeping across the landscape with the speed of an arrow. As we looked, it was joined by another and then a third one. For twenty minutes they gave us a demonstration of meteoric aerial prowess, at times diving downward from far above, then rapidly soaring across or wheeling about the mountain spurs with the aid of the stiff breeze. On the 18th, at Alum Cave, we saw another pair; they soared for a few minutes about the great cliff and over the cove where they breed each year, then disappeared.

Ravens, too, are always among the hoped for rarities and we were treated to a sight of three of these birds late one afternoon, on the Skyline Drive near Indian Gap. They were leisurely flying northward, on their way to roost, and passed us only a few hundred yards distant, croaking as they flew. One or two were recorded here on two other occasions and once at Collins Gap. What a relief it must be to these rare birds to realize that the Smokies are now a safe haven where they are no longer menaced by shotgun and rifle. The Skyline Drive also yielded us a flock of ten Red Crossbills, a species which was new to most of our party. They were within fifty feet of the road feeding upon spruce cones as we sat and watched them. Some Northern Pine Siskins were observed at close range on the summit of Clingman's Dome picking about in the granite gravel under the fir trees. Siskins were also seen at other locations.

Twenty species of the warbler family were recorded during the week at various altitudes. Several Golden-winged Warblers at above 5000 feet were a surprise to us; a pair of these were at Indian Gap and the male was heard singing every day but the day we visited Cade's Cove. Perhaps the most interesting of our warbler finds was a nest of the Canada Warbler, containing three nearly fresh eggs, on June 15. It was found by Miss Slack, just off the trail to Andrew's Bald from Clingman's. This species is not uncommon but to find the nest, tucked back in the moss on the ground amid a jungle of undergrowth, is a very difficult matter. It was found by patiently watching the female as she returned to the nest after feeding. The nest, built of soft, fibrous materials on the foundation of green moss and leaves, was tucked into a steep, dry slope, under dense shade.

The Carolina Juncos or "Snowbirds" furnished us continuous entertainment for they were easily the most common birds of the high altitudes and were abundant on the sunny, grassy tops as well as in the sunless, virgin forests lower down. Looking for their nests, built in the "cuts" alongside the trails, proved to be an irresistible pastime and many were found. They were also found built into the roots of upturned trees and in the little fir trees that had sprung up in burned-over areas. Many nests held fresh eggs while most of the others had been vacated by the young of the year which were abroad and being fed by their parents.

Among the other species peculiar to these high altitudes and which were therefore of particular interest to us, were the Red-breasted Nuthatch, Black-capped Chickadee, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Veery, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Mountain Vireo, Winter Wren, Blackburnian, Cairns's and Chestnut-sided Warblers, a just-completed nest of the last mentioned being found in a briar on Clingman's. Olive-sided Flycatchers were seen and heard on eight occasions, most often along the Skyline Drive where the habitat is quite different from the coniferous swamps in which they are found breeding in Canada.

Possibly the highlight of our trip was that of discovering three nests of the Southern Brown Creeper, the nest of this new sub-species not having heretofore been recorded. The first of these nests was found on June 14, watching one of these birds among the conifers until it suddenly disappeared under the loose bark of a large dead spruce. It was built eight feet above the ground and ten feet from The Jump-off trail. A quantity of fresh nest material protruded from under the bark and it was quickly realized that we had found a nest. The bird remained within only briefly, but returned in a few minutes with more nesting material. Our group watched the pair for some time as they busily engaged themselves with nest building. One of our party then advanced, hopeful of photographing one of the Creepers at the nest while standing against a nearby tree, but they would not venture so close, although remaining near and making some protest. Several photos were made of the nest in situ, one of which is reproduced on another page. The body of this nest was made almost entirely of the light, corky sapwood of dead spruce, which had been torn off in strips the length of a match. We presumed this nest would have been ready for eggs within a few days. The second nest was also in process of construction and was similarly located, in a ravine near Newfound Gap.

The third nest was along the Skyline Drive, in a large dead spruce on which the bark was still completely intact. At one point, however, about forty feet from the ground, the bark had buckled out so as to provide a space within, about two inches across. The birds were entering thru a crack to one side and there was no external evidence of a nest. It's presence was discovered by watching one of the birds fly to the tree and enter the crack. It did not leave so it was assumed to be incubating. Upon securing a permit from Park authorities to examine the nest in detail, the senior author (A F. G.) climbed to it on June 19 and found it to contain five eggs, nearly fresh. The nest, unlike the one described above, was composed externally of the tips of dead spruce branches from which the leaves had fallen, then a half inch layer of the dead sapwood strips and finally, a thick lining of the soft, silky, silver-colored inner bark shreds from the spruce trees. The eggs were white, flecked with small dots of reddish brown, chiefly about the larger end but not in the form of a wreath..

The appended list will show the distribution and relative abundance of the 87 species of birds found within the Park by our party. The names conform to those given in the A. O. U. Check-list, 1931 edition. The compilation and tabulation of the various lists was done each night by the junior author and upon the completion of our stay, he made up the summary which follows below.

A—1500 ft. to 2500 ft. elevation: To top Siler's Bald; Little River Gorge; Laurel Falls trail; Road to Cade's Cove; in Cade's Cove.

B—2500 ft. to 3500 ft.: Foot of the Chimneys; Anthony Creek trail.

C—3500 ft. to 4500 ft.: From Grassy Patch to Alum Cave; Bote Mt. trail.

D—4500 ft. to 5000 ft.: Highway at head of valley, third tunnel, and Newfound Gap; Spence Field Bald.

E—500 ft. to 6000 ft.: Newfound Gap to the Jump-off; Alum Cave to Le Conte; Newfound Gap to Indian Gap to Forney's Ridge, Andrew's Bald, Siler's Bald.

F—6000 ft. to 6000 ft.: Top of Mt. LeConte; Clingman's Dome.

| | A | B | C | D | E | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Turkey Vulture | | | | 1 | 2 | |
| E. Red-tailed Hawk | 1 | | | | 1 | |
| Broad-winged Hawk | | | | 2 | 2 | |
| Golden Eagle | | | | | 2 | |
| Duck Hawk | | | | | 2 | 3 |
| E. Ruffed Grouse | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 11* | |
| E. Bob-white | | | | 1 | 2 | |
| Amercian Woodcock | 2 | | | | | |
| E. Mourning Dove | 3 | | | | | |
| N. Barred Owl | | 1 | 1 | | | 1 |
| E. Whip-poor-will | 1 | | | | | |
| Chimney Swift | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 8 | 4 |
| Ruby-throated Hummingbird | 8 | | 4 | 1 | 4 | |
| E. Belted Kingfisher | 3 | | | | | |
| N. Flicker | 6 | 1 | | 1* | | |
| N. Pileated Woodpecker | 1 | | | 1 | 1 | |
| Yellow-bellied Sapsucker | | | | 2 | | |
| E. Hairy Woodpecker | | | 1 | 2 | 4 | 2 |
| N. Downy Woodpecker | 1 | | | 1 | 2 | |
| N. Crested Flycatcher | 1 | | | | | |
| E. Phoebe | 19 | 1 | | | 2 | |
| Acadian Flycatcher | 10 | 3 | | | | |
| E. Wood Pewee | 6 | 2 | | 4 | 1 | |
| Olive-sided Flycatcher | | | 2 | 2 | 4 | |
| Rough-winged Swallow | 11 | | | | | |
| Purple Martin | 4 | | | 2 | | |
| S. Blue Jay | 4 | 1 | 2 | | 11 | |
| N. Raven | | | | | 3 | |
| Crow | 15 | 3 | | | | |
| Black-capped Chickadee | | | 1 | 3 | 20 | 1 |
| Carolina Chickadee | 7 | | 2* | | | |
| Tufted Titmouse | 2 | 1 | | | | |
| White-breasted Nuthatch | 1 | | | | | |
| Red-breasted Nuthatch | | | 3 | 2 | 22 | 3 |
| Brown Creeper | 1 | | | 5 | 29 | |
| E. Winter Wren | | | 4 | 8 | 17 | 5 |
| Carolina Wren | 8 | | | | | |
| Catbird | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 5 | |
| Brown Thrasher | 1 | | | | | |
| Robin (subsp?) | 10 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 10 | 2 |
| Wood Thrush | 12 | 3 | 7 | | | |
| Veery | | | 9 | 17 | 50 | |
| E. Bluebird | 2 | | | 2 | | |
| Golden-crowned Kinglet | | | 3 | 3 | 16 | |
| Cedar Waxwing | 2 | | 3 | | 8 | |
| Starling | 2 | | | | | |

| | A | B | C | D | E | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| White-eyed Vireo | 8 | 1 | | | | |
| Yellow-throated Vireo | 3 | | | | | |
| Mountain Vireo | | 1* | 3 | 6 | 15 | |
| Red-eyed Vireo | 17 | 15 | 1 | | | |
| Black and White Warbler | 3 | 1 | | | | |
| Worm-eating Warbler | | 3* | | | | |
| Golden-winged Warbler | | | | 2 | 4 | |
| E. Yellow Warbler | 3 | | | 1 | | |
| Cairns's Warbler | | 2 | 11 | 2 | 25 | |
| Black-throated Green Warbler | 5 | 2 | 9 | 2 | 9 | |
| Cerulean Warbler | | (1)? | | | | |
| Blackburnian Warbler | | | | | 2 | |
| Yellow-throated Warbler | 1 | | | | | |
| Sycamore Warbler | 2* | | | | | |
| Chestnut-sided Warbler | | | 2 | 7 | 39 | 5 |
| N. Pine Warbler | 2 | | | | | |
| N. Prairie Warbler | 4 | | | | | |
| Oven-bird | | 4 | 3 | | 3 | |
| La. Water-thrush | 5 | 2 | | | | |
| Kentucky Warbler | 8 | 8 | | | | |
| N. Yellow-throat | 3 | | | | 4 | |
| Yellow-breasted Chat | 16 | | | | | |
| Hooded Warbler | 11 | 3 | | | | |
| Canada Warbler | | | 3 | 3 | 18 | |
| American Redstart | 4 | | | | | |
| S. Meadowlark | 2 | | | | | |
| E. Red-wing | 2 | | | | | |
| Scarlet Tanager | 3 | | 1 | | | |
| Summer Tanager | 1 | 2 | | | | |
| E. Cardinal | 11 | 1 | | | | |
| Rose-breasted Grosbeak | | | 1 | | 3 | |
| Indigo Bunting | 28 | | | 3 | 1 | |
| N. Pine Siskin | | | | 4 | 4 | 8* |
| E. Goldfinch | 26 | | | 5 | | |
| Red Crossbill | | | | | 10* | |
| Red-eyed Towhee | 9 | | 5 | 2 | 16 | 2 |
| E. Grasshopper Sparrow | 3 | | | | | |
| Carolina Junco | | 1* | 9 | 19 | 116 | 18 |
| E. Chipping Sparrow | 7 | | | | | |
| E. Field Sparrow | 5 | | | | | |
| E. Song Sparrow | | | 1 | | | |

## NASHVILLE, TENN. (A.F.G.) AND CLARKSVILLE, TENN. (A.C.)

*E. Ruffed Grouse—includes 8 young. N. Flicker—on Spence Field Bald. Carolina Chickadee—these 2 may have been Black-capped Chickadees. Mt. Vireo—to 2600 feet. Worm-eating Warbler—plus immature birds being fed. Sycamore Warbler—with young. Carolina Junco—at 2600 feet.

# SUMMER RESIDENT LISTS

BY OUR MEMBERS

In our June issue we suggested that lists of our most common summer residents be compiled for our respective localities so that a cross-section of our summer bird life could be presented in these pages. Another objective was to secure some new contributors to our publication and to encourage our members to notice some of their bird neighbors from this standpoint. For this reason a list of only five species thought to be the most common summer residents in one's area was set as a minimum. The suggested list was one that included the ten most common species in relative order for the contributor's home county or some part thereof. From representatives of our larger and older chapters whose home territory had been worked more by a larger number of observers and over a longer period of time, we were glad to receive larger lists. These were accompanied by notes and other comment which we felt should be included. Thus we abandoned our idea of a comparative tabulation even before we attempted to work out a possible way to publish the data in that form. Instead, we leave the reader to make the comparison and to note the variation in the summer birdlife of our state. Speaking for the Shelby County list and possibly many others, the data presented should be considered as only preliminary due to natural limitations. We desire to express our sincere thanks to those members who co-operated with *The Migrant* in making the necessary observations and notes and preparing such lists.

**Reelfoot Lake**—Lake proper and wooded fringes. Am. Egret, Double-crested Cormorant, Coot, Least Bittern, Little Blue Heron, Wood Duck, Red-wing, Prothonotary Warbler, Wood Pewee, Bronzed Grackle. After mid-July the Least Bittern should possibly be replaced by the Pied-billed Grebe. —TOM SIMPSON, Southwestern, Memphis.

**Shelby County:**—In order, but to be considered only as preliminary: Mockingbird, Meadowlark, Cardinal, Indigo Bunting, Blue Jay, Orchard Oriole, English Sparrow, Wood Thrush, Bronzed Grackle, Chimney Swift, Brown Thrasher, Maryland Yellow-throat, Mourning Dove, Red-eyed Vireo, White-eyed Vireo, Carolina Wren, Robin, Red-wing, Bluebird, Killdeer, Summer Tanager, Wood Pewee, Flicker, Carolina Chickadee, Bob-white; also Nighthawk, Purple Martin, Tufted Titmouse, Loggerhead Shrike, and Hooded Warbler.—BEN B. COFFEY, JR., Memphis

**Humboldt.**—Cardinal, Mockingbird, Indigo Bunting, Brown Thrasher, Robin, Bluebird, Bronzed Grackle, Chimney Swift, Red-wing, Killdeer.—ALBERT J. MARSH, Humboldt.

**Decaturville:**—Area south of town. Carolina Wren, Indigo Bunting, Mourning Dove, Bob-white, White-eyed Vireo, Blue Jay, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Carolina Chickadee, Cardinal.—BEN WELCH, JR., Memphis.

**Hardin County—Pickwick Dam Park and vicinity of Counce.**—In order: Pine Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Bluebird, Mockingbird, Purple Martin, Orchard Oriole, Chipping Sparrow, Meadowlark, Wood Thrush, Brown Thrasher—HOWARD COUNCE, Hardin County.

**Mt. Pleasant.**—Dan R. Gray farm.—200 acres with fields interspersed with cover; small stream and a half-acre pond. In order: Robin (nests all over the place), Meadowlark, Blue Jay, Brown Thrasher, Cardinal, Catbird, Carolina Wren, Bewick's Wren, Mourning Dove, Indigo Bunting. Additional notes follow in the 'Round Table'.—DAN R. GRAY, Mt. Pleasant.

**Pulaski** and Environs.—Crow, Field Sparrow, Robin, Cardinal, Bronzed Grackle, Mourning Dove, Blue Jay, Catbird, Mockingbird, Bluebird.—MRS. SARAH ROGERS, Pulaski.

**Rutherford County.**—In order: English Sparrow, Starling, Field Sparrow, Bewick's Wren, Meadowlark, Mockingbird, Robin, Chipping Sparrow, Bluebird and Brown Thrasher.—GEORGE DAVIS, DR. JAMES B. BLACK, AND H. O. TODD, JR., Murfreesboro.

**Nashville Area.**——In compiling such a list as this, some limits must be set and many factors considered. In the first place, I have eliminated 'city area' by excluding all territory within 4 miles of the court house and this tends to cut down the ranking of such birds as the Robin, Mockingbird, Wood Thrush and English Sparrow. The extreme limit set is 15 miles from the court house, thereby embracing large tracts of woodland as well as cut-over land, thickets, wooded pastures, meadows, cultivated and abandoned fields. The hilly and often rocky nature of much of this area has been the cause of a very large percentage of it being covered by thickets or else uncultivated. 'Clean cultivation' has been the exception rather than the rule because much of the tilled land is occupied by tenant farmers. For these reasons, the most abundant breeding birds of the area are those which prefer thickets, and next are those which prefer wooded pastures and cut-over lands. When one considers how many such habitats are available and that each has its quota of birds that prefer such conditions, he will realize that perhaps the birds most often seen are not necessarily the most common. The Mockingbird, for instance, is conspicuous in flight, might be given higher rank than they deserve; these include the Carolina Wren, Chimney Swift, Blue Jay, Crow, Bronzed Grackle, etc. The writer has specialized upon the nesting habits of birds for many years and the ranking given below comes largely from the general 'impressions' of relative abundance rather than from a tabulation of census lists. A final check upon the ranking given comes from observations made upon the number of old nests found during the winter months for they may be readily identified by an experienced observer.

The list is given below but it may frankly be stated that almost any species might be moved up or down one position, and possibly more toward the end of the list. In order, I would place them as follows: No. 1.—Field Sparrow, 2—Cardinal, 3—Northern (Maryland) Yellow-throat, 4—Indigo Bunting, 5—White-eyed Vireo, 6—Yellow-breasted Chat, 7—Towhee, 8—Mockingbird, 9—Brown Thrasher, 10—Carolina Wren, 11—Prairie Warbler, 12—Bluebird, 13—Red-eyed Vireo, 14—Blue Jay, 15—Carolina Chickadee, 16—Downy Woodpecker, 17—Orchard Oriole, 18—Flicker, 19—Catbird, 20—Bob-White, 21—English Sparrow, 22—Robin, 23—Tufted Titmouse, 24—Mourning Dove, and 25—Wood Pewee.—ALBERT F. GANIER, Nashville.

**Paris.**—Blue Jay, Cardinal, Mockingbird, Chimney Swift, Carolina Wren, Towhee, Crow, Robin, Catbird, Carolina Chickadee.—PAUL CROSSWY, Paris.

**Clarksville**—The task of listing the commonest summer residents among the birds of our county seems simple, but it has shown to us members of the Clarksville Chapter that our studies have not yet brought us to the point where we can give a dependable answer. Montgomery County, in which we live, is principally a farming area, but changes from flat and gently rolling terrain in its north central section to hilly territory in the southern, eastern and western parts, where wooded slopes outnumber the tilled acres. To strike a proper balance for these different bird habitats in our county has been another difficulty. We are unanimous that the Indigo Bunting is the most abundant of our native summer residents, closely followed by the Cardinal and Field Sparrow. On each farm there is such a horde of the English Sparrow that we must place him in a group with these three members of the Sparrow family. Next in order we rank the Catbird, the Robin and the Towhee, and in the third group we place the Carolina Wren and the Maryland Yellow-throat. As fourth in the scale of abundance during the summer we would name the White-eyed and Red-eyed Vireos and the Chipping Sparrow. This is a total of 12 species that seem to us outstanding in the number of individuals by which they are represented. —ALFRED CLEBSCH, Clarksville.

**Springfield.**—Cardinal, Field Sparrow, Crow, Indigo Bunting, Mourning Dove, Bob-white, Meadowlark, Bronzed Grackle, Catbird, and Tufted Titmouse.—FORREST V. DURAND, Springfield.

**Bon Air.**—Camp grounds only. Very common—Chipping Sparrow, Goldfinch, Field Sparrow, Pine Warbler. Common—Cardinal, Bluebird, Towhee, Wood Pewee, Carolina Chickadee, Ruby-throated Hummingbird.—SARAH O. ROGERS, Pulaski.

**Knox County.**—In order: Field Sparrow, Carolina Wren, Chimney Swift, Starling, Titmouse, English Sparrow, Carolina Chickadee, Crow, Blue Jay, Mourning Dove, Towhee, Wood Thrush, Cardinal, Indigo Bunting, Bluebird, Song Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Downy Woodpecker, Meadowlark, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Black and White Warbler, Summer Tanager, Redstart, Phoebe and (25.) Mockingbird. We have followed the suggestions as set forth by Mr. Ganier and readily admit that any species could be rerated either way by one or more positions.—W. M. WALKER, WILLIAM M. JOHNSON, Knoxville.

**Knox County—Island Home Pike section.**—In order: Purple Martin, Robin, Carolina Wren, Bluebird, Wood Thrush, Cardinal, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Brown Thrasher, Red-eyed Towhee. These have been more common this year than usual. The following less common species have nested this year in about the usual numbers: Phoebe, Field and Chipping Sparrows, Blue Jay, Downy and Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Bob-white, Mockingbird, Prothonotary Warbler, Screech Owl, Wood Pewee, Crested Flycatcher, Summer Tanager, Mourning Dove. There has been a definite shortage of the more uncommon species which are listed herewith: Black and White Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Maryland Yellow-throat, La. Water-thrush, Ovenbird, White-eyed, Red-eyed and Yellow-throated Vireos, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Cowbird, Indigo Bunting and Song Sparrow.—H. P. IJAMS, Knoxville.

**Lake Andrew Jackson (Knox County).**——It has been my plan for several years to follow the bird life of some particular locality; and since Lake Andrew Jackson has received the major part of my "bird-time," this present project called for little extra work on the part of Charles Baird, Mrs. Walker, and myself. Once each week from July 16 to August 21, inclusive, we spent the early morning at the lake and vicinity. Our area included approximately 150 acres roughly divided into 40 acres in water, 10 in pasture, 52 in thickets and woodland, and the remainder in land subject to cultivation. The route over this territory covered the best habitats available and was selected with the idea of visiting the most densely populated areas in such a manner that duplication in counting was at a minimum.

Trips were made on July 16, 24, 30, Aug. 8, 13, and 21. Species listed numbered 47, 53, 37, 32, 37, and 26 respectively, and a grand total of 65 for the period. After each trip the ten most numerous species were listed,—with surprising results. Twenty species were included one or more times in the six lists with only the Song Sparrow and English Sparrow in every "high-ten" list. Originally we planned to submit only our final list with a few comments, but because of some unusual results we wish to develop our results a little more fully.

Red-wings were very numerous in mid-July but were all gone by Aug. 7. Starlings were abundant when in flocks but scarce as individuals yet the flocks were not consistent in appearance. On July 24 we found a flock of Chickadees, Titmice, Black and White Warblers, and White-breasted Nuthatch in our area where the Yellow-throated Vireo stayed. These birds behaved very similar to the winter feeding flocks in that they were alternately active and quiet. The Purple Martin which was reported in flocks on July 30 were found in flocks by us on Aug. 13 and 21. The Martins roosted in the dead trees in and around the lake. One flock of Crows on Aug. 21 was sufficiently large to make this bird rank sixth for the entire period.

Trip Ranking: July 7.—Starling, Red-wing, Mourning Dove, Carolina Chickadee, Blue Jay, Song Sparrow, Tufted Titmouse, Kingbird, English Sparrow, and Bluebird. July 24.—English Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Chickadee, Goldfinch, Titmouse, Red-wing, Black and White Warbler, White-breasted Nuthatch, and Kingbird. July 30.—Starling, Song Sparrow, Dove, Bluebird, Blue Jay, Field Sparrow, English Sparrow, Purple Martin, Kingbird, and Chimney Swift. Aug 7—Song Sparrow, Starling, Dove, Bluebird, Blue Jay, Robin, Field Sparrow, Cardinal, Green Heron, and English Sparrow. Aug. 13—Purple Martin, Starling, Song Sparrow, English Sparrow, Chimney Swift, Bluebird, Dove, Green Heron, Field Sparrow, and Kingbird. Aug 21—Purple Martin, Crow, Dove, Song Sparrow, English Sparrow, Bluebird, Blue Jay, Kingbird, Cardinal, and Starling. Final rating—Purple Martin, Starling, Song Sparrow, Mourning Dove, English Sparrow, Crow, Bluebird, Chickadee, Red-wing, and Field Sparrow.

The weak point in this rating is that the territory was not sufficiently large to give the gregarious birds a true status but this is counter-balanced by the fact that the smaller area can be studied more thoroughly.—WM. WALKER, Knoxville.

**Johnson City Area.**—So much depends on circumstances and locations that it is very difficult to name the most common of our birds. I have seen 500 Crows in a single flock most common for that day's observation; also 100 or more Prairie Horned Larks in one day but the average I should list somewhat as follows: Starling—resident, breeding throughout up to about 5000 ft. elevation but more numerous in the lowlands as low as 1100 ft. (our floor). English Sparrow—resident in Upper Austral and Transition Zones. Conditions in our Canadian Zone are not conducive to its propagation. E. Robin—summer resident, breeds abundantly throughout N. E. Tenn. in all zones. 1100 to 6300 ft. elevation (our ceiling). Mockingbird— resident, breeds freely in Upper Austral and Transition Zones observed as high as 3000 ft. Catbird—summer resident throughout this region. Wood Thrush—very common summer resident in woodlands of the Upper Austral and Transition Zones. Meadowlark—Resident, breeds freely in Upper Austral and Transition Zones. Song Sparrow—Resident, breeds abundantly throughout this region. The subspecies breeding is the Mississippi race, but in winter it is replaced to considerable extent by the Eastern type. It is my opinion that the former migrates to a great degree. Bluebird—Resident, breeds throughout. Carolina Junco—Breeds in the Canadian Zone and winters in the lowlands of the Upper Austral and Transition Zones. This is the most common bird on its breeding ground in summer.

The Flicker is a close contestant for any of the last four positions. —BRUCE P. TYLER AND ROBERT B. LYLE, Johnson City.

**Greeneville:**—An area of two square miles, north of town, consisting of open woods and thickets broken by rolling upland pastures and extending down to Lick Creek. English Sparrow, Mockingbird, Cardinal, Brown Thrasher, Blue Jay, Carolina Chickadee, Song Sparrow, Catbird, Carolina Wren, Field Sparrow.—WILLIE RUTH REED, Greeneville.

**Great Smoky Mountains National Park—Camp Margaret Townsend.**—About 20 acres; a small open field slopes upward from Little River into the forested slopes of Rattlesnake Ridge below Tremont. Heavy logging near camp. In order: Chipping Sparrow, Catbird, Phoebe, Goldfinch, Acadian Flycatcher, Red-eyed Vireo, Wood Thrush, Carolina Wren, Black and White Warbler, Sycamore Warbler.—WILLIE RUTH REED, Greeneville.

**Great Smoky Mountains National Park—Gatlinburg (1200-2000 feet elevation).**—Cardinal, Field Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Wood Thrush, Goldfinch, Phoebe, Catbird, Carolina Wren, Robin, Bluebird.—ARTHUR STUPKA, Park Naturalist.

**Great Smoky Mountains National Park—Spruce-fir region (4,000-6,600 feet elevation).**—Carolina Junco, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Veery, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Mtn. Vireo, Cairns's Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Hairy Woodpecker, Winter Wren.—ARTHUR STUPKA, Park Naturalist, Gatlinburg.

# BIRD BANDING BREVITIES—NO. 13

BY AMELIA R. LASKEY

In seven years systematic trapping, during which more that twelve thousand birds of 110 species have been banded, there has been only one of these birds trapped and released by a bird bander in another state. On April 14, 1938, Dr. K. Christofferson trapped **Junco** No. 37-84478 at his station in Blaney Park, Michigan. This bird had been banded at Blossomdell substation on November 29, 1937.—During the past year I have been experimenting with 'plume' marking,—that is, fastening colored feathers in the tails of resident birds with Duco cement. This method has been found satisfactory as a means of field identification by bird students at Cornell but here it did not work so well for the plumes that were not lost became so sooty and bedraggled that many of the colors were indistinguishable. One objective was to mark all the Chickadees and Tufted Titmice that came to the feeding shelves in order to determine whether the twosomes that fly together in winter are mates or merely chance companions. Two colors did survive sun bleaching and soot darkening and two **Carolina Chickadees** marked with red and orange came together all winter. The red-plumed one occasionally chased others from the sunflower seeds. In April their courtship behavior proved they were mates. On a limb above the feeding shelf, the orange-plumed individual was seen posturing like a begging juvenile with quivering wings while the red-plumed male fed her. Later in the season the male was trapped, minus his plume, when he brought some youngsters to the station. Although this pair happened to be of the same size, the male averaged a few grams heavier throughout the non-breeding season.—Dr. Cynthia Counce of Memphis used some of the plumes at her feeding station and found that a pair of **Carolina Wrens** remained together during the winter and mating seasons.—A late migrant **White-Crowned Sparrow** was banded May 18.—**Bronzed Grackle** B394136, on adult male banded March 28, 1934, at the Belle Meade substation was retaken there March 22, 1938, with no intervening recapture records.—**Mockingbird** B270752, banded September 15, 1933, was trapped a quarter of a mile from the banding station by Miss Ann Hamilton on May 27, 1938. It had not been retaken in the five year interval.—**Blue Jay** B353963 banded at Belle Meade April 25, 1933, was found shot to death there on June 3, 1938, at least six years old. —Some very interesting **Indigo Bunting** returns were obtained this spring although this species was very scarce at the station, only five new ones being banded. No. H73036, a male, banded August 30, 1933 was a return—4 on May 19, 1938, aged 5 years. No. 34—8180, a female banded August 21, 1934, spent July and August of 1936 at the station, repeating frequently. She reappeared May 16, 1938 and again had the trap habit, sometimes repeating several times a day and dropping an egg while entrapped on the 24th. A few days later she died apparently from strangulation caused by a millet seed in the trachea. The plumage of this old bird was unusual as her head and breast were heavily marked with blue. Mr. Ganier now has the skin in the collection. The other males, No. 34—87190 and No. 34—87213, were returns-3 in May, 1938. The former is three years old and the latter four years or more.—**Goldfinches** have been difficult to trap. Of the ten banded, two were taken in 1933 and eight in 1935. Therefore it was a rare treat to get two this summer; one was an adult male in brilliant summer plumage on August 31, the other, a female trapped September 3rd which had been banded August 7, 1935. Both were trapped between 5 and 6 P.M. the male weighing 11 grams and the old female 13.8 grams.——An unusual record for the **Canada Warbler** was obtained when one flew through an open window of a Nashville hotel in the central business section, about 7:30 P.M. July 31, after a heavy rain. It was brought to the banding station on the next day, in good condition except for the loss of its tail incidental to catching it. After banding it was weighed, given a drink of water and released. From plumage markings, size, and weight, it was identified as an adult male.——A few recovery records of special interest have been received from the Biological Survey. **Golden Eagle** No. 36—802822 caught in a steel trap at Watertown, Tenn. and released February 26, 1936 at Gatlinburg by Mr. Stupka, Smoky Mountains Park naturalist, was killed at Head Waters, Virginia on March 10, 1938.——**Red-shouldered Hawk** No. 34—661450 banded January 14, 1937 (mentioned in the March, 1937 Brevities) was caught (and probably killed) at Lansing, Michigan on March 20, 1938. ——**Screech Owl** No. 34—509922, banded March 30, 1934, at the home station, was deported at the time to woods about 2 1-2 miles out. On March 6, 1936, it was again captured at the home station and once more deported, being released at Chapel Hill, Tennessee, about 40 miles north. On December 8, 1937, it was caught in a hollow tree at Eagleville, Tenn. about ten miles north of Chapel Hill. Unfortunately there can be no further record of the travels of this bird because the misinformed finder removed the band, sending it to Washington instead of reading the number. He held the bird sometime awaiting a new band from the Biological Survey, and finally released the owl unbanded.

NASHVILLE, TENN., September 7, 1938.

## RAMBLING WITH THE BIRDS

DR. CYNTHIA C. COUNCE

The period of June 7 to 21, 1938, was spent at Pickwick, which is located on the Tennessee River southeast of Shiloh National Park. Birds were plentiful and Howard Counce and I were able to list 64 species during our stay. Many of the warblers found here earlier in the spring had already moved on to their favorite nesting grounds farther north.

We enjoyed our breakfasts about 5:30 A.M. each morning in a pavilion on the reservation about forty feet from the lake. Often this meal was interrupted when some new water bird would splash into the water near us. After breakfast it was our custom to follow the trails made by the C.C.C. boys around the lake and make an annotated list of our land birds. On some occasions when we wanted glimpses of the Pileated Woodpecker or Barred Owl, we would take to the deep woods. One morning we were exploring the high bank of Chambers Creek, when suddenly a "ball of fire" came flying through the heavy foliage just over our heads—"Redstart!" we acclaimed. This beautiful warbler was quite a treat to the eyes. We then turned towards the Tennessee River which was only a few paces away. From beneath the cool willows, we could watch the Kingfisher skim the waves for food, or scan the sky for the Osprey searching for his tasty repast. He seems to haunt this region since the erection of the dam.

Pickwick Lake formed by the Tennessee River at this point, should become a very attractive locality for waterbirds of all kinds as well as the Bald Eagle and the Osprey which feed on rough fish.

The "Turkey Knob" in the vicinity of Pickwick Dam, towers higher than any of the surrounding hills. Its lofty peak has always beckoned to me, since its area was about the only territory in that region that I had not explored. One morning Howard suggested that we explore this knob in hopes of finding the Scarlet Tanager or something unusual to give us another thrill, so we began our long climb to the top. All was quiet on the summit much to our disappointment, so we ambled down the farther side. Suddenly we came upon a house in a clearing. There on the back fence was erected a rugged box, made for Purple Martins. Ae we paused to rest on the back porch we observed to our utter surprise that a pair of Crested Flycathers were nesting in the box. This box was about twelve feet high and was almost inaccessible, but with the aid of boxes and tubs we finally, with much difficulty, managed to climb to the nest and bring out two fledglings. We placed them on the porch and attempted to photograph them. The nest consisted of a few pine needles, dried sticks and fragments of snake skin. Both parent birds made frequent calls to this single room bird house, bringing grasshoppers and other insects.

Later, at Natural Bridge, near Waynesboro, we found the Louisiana Water-thrush wading thru the rippling shallows of a small hill branch, teetering his tail continuously. We were fortunate enough to hear him give his wild ringing song which thrilled all who came within its sound. This was also an ideal place to observe the Thrushes and Phoebes which were then so busily engaged in their struggle for existence with the appetities of their young ever crying for more and more.

MEMPHIS, TENN.

# BIRD BANDING STARTED AT CLARKSVILLE

BY MRS. JOHN Y. HUTCHINSON

Under a Biological Survey permit issued to the writer, this interesting phase of bird study was initiated in Clarksville on March 11, 1938. This followed much preliminary work as a result of visits to Mrs. Laskey's banding station at Nashville by some of our local members and of the many valued suggestions made by her. In addition to the home station and Mr. Clebsch's substation, Dr. Pickering began trapping two months later; the delay being due to a shortage of traps and bands,—the latter resulting from the full success of our initial efforts. His station adjoins the premises of Mr. Clebsch. All stations now have about five traps each and are getting good results. During the winter we found millet to be ideal bait but have used chiefly bread this summer, with pokeberries, canary seed, and sunflower seed for variety.

In our first six months about 600 birds of 33 species have been banded.

More Bronzed Grackles,—namely, 88—have been banded than any other species; 65 were by Mr. Clebsch and 20 by Dr. Pickering. Runners-up were the Catbird, 74, and the Brown Thrasher, 67. 56 Field Sparrows were banded, all at the home station. Next in order were: Cardinal, 44; Towhee, 42; White-crowned Sparrow, 32; Bewick's Wren, 28. The only warblers were: Md. Yellow-throat, 1; Yellow Warbler, 1; and Chat, 5. Only 8 White-throats and 7 Juncos were banded. A single Gambel's Sparrow was of special interest and during spring migration a Gray-cheeked Thrush was banded by Mr. Clebsch.

Our most consistent repeaters were Brown Thrashers (highest for one individual—21 times, next—17), Catbirds (15 and 12), Tufted Titmice (19 and 12 times), Cardinals, Towhees, Bewick's Wrens, Carolina Wrens, and the champions themselves,—the Field Sparrows. Out of 56 of this species banded about 50% have repeated from 1 to 10 times and some as high as 18, 20, 24, and 30 times each,— all within the period of Mar. 17 to Apr. 15, 1938. I am now beginning to trap a few immature Field Sparrows but not a single adult has been near the traps since that period altho there seemed to be many in the vicinity all summer. An unusual incident on Sept. 12, proved that at least one of my banded adults had been near the station. A Black Snake, about 4½ feet long, was found in my 'tunnel' trap located near the tall weeds in adjacent vacant lots. A .22 rifle ended his career and he was tossed far into the weeds. I'm sure there had been no birds in the trap when the snake entered but as I went about my housework I couldn't forget that big reptile. Earlier in the morning I had banded and released nearby a very wet and bedraggled immature Catbird and the thought now struck me that perhaps my Catbird had been a victim of this snake. So I looked nearly an hour to find the snake, which to my relief, did not contain the Catbird. But the tears came to my eyes at the sight of a nearly digested but still recognizable small mass of wet feathers and two tiny legs. The band 38-72399 around one tarsus identified the bird as my own special little Field Sparrow that had repeated 30 times from Mar. 25 to Apr. 16, this spring.

In all, six banded birds have been found dead and reported,—all near the stations. From our traps we have 7 records classed as 'returns' under the standard arbitrary definition that lists as such all records with a lapse of at least three months since previous trapping. In our limited period of operation we have not, of course, had time to have any 'recoveries' or interesting 'returns'. We look forward to the advent of our winter birds again, awaiting as all bird banders have at one time or another, the thrill of first re-trapping those of 'our own' birds which may return after a season's sojourn in far places,—perhaps the farther portions of our continent.

CLARKSVILLE, TENN., Sept. 17, 1938.

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OUR ILLUSTRATIONS:—The 20 photos on the next four pages, illustrate the article on the birds of the Great Smokies. Numbers 1 and 2 show members of the party on Andrew's Bald and on Clingman's Dome lookout tower. No. 3, a little Red Squirrel at lunch. No. 4, how the squirrel was photographed (Schneider, Davis and Slack.) No. 5, group under Alum Cave cliff, watching Duck Hawks. No. 6, group in Cades Cove. No. 7 and 8, nest of Brown Creeper, protruding from under dead bark. No. 10, inspecting a Brown Creeper's nest, forty feet up. No. 11, nest of Cairns Warbler in rhododendron. No. 12, nest of Carolina Junco, tucked in fern moss. No. 13, nest and eggs of Ruffed Grouse, at foot of beech. (continued on page 59)

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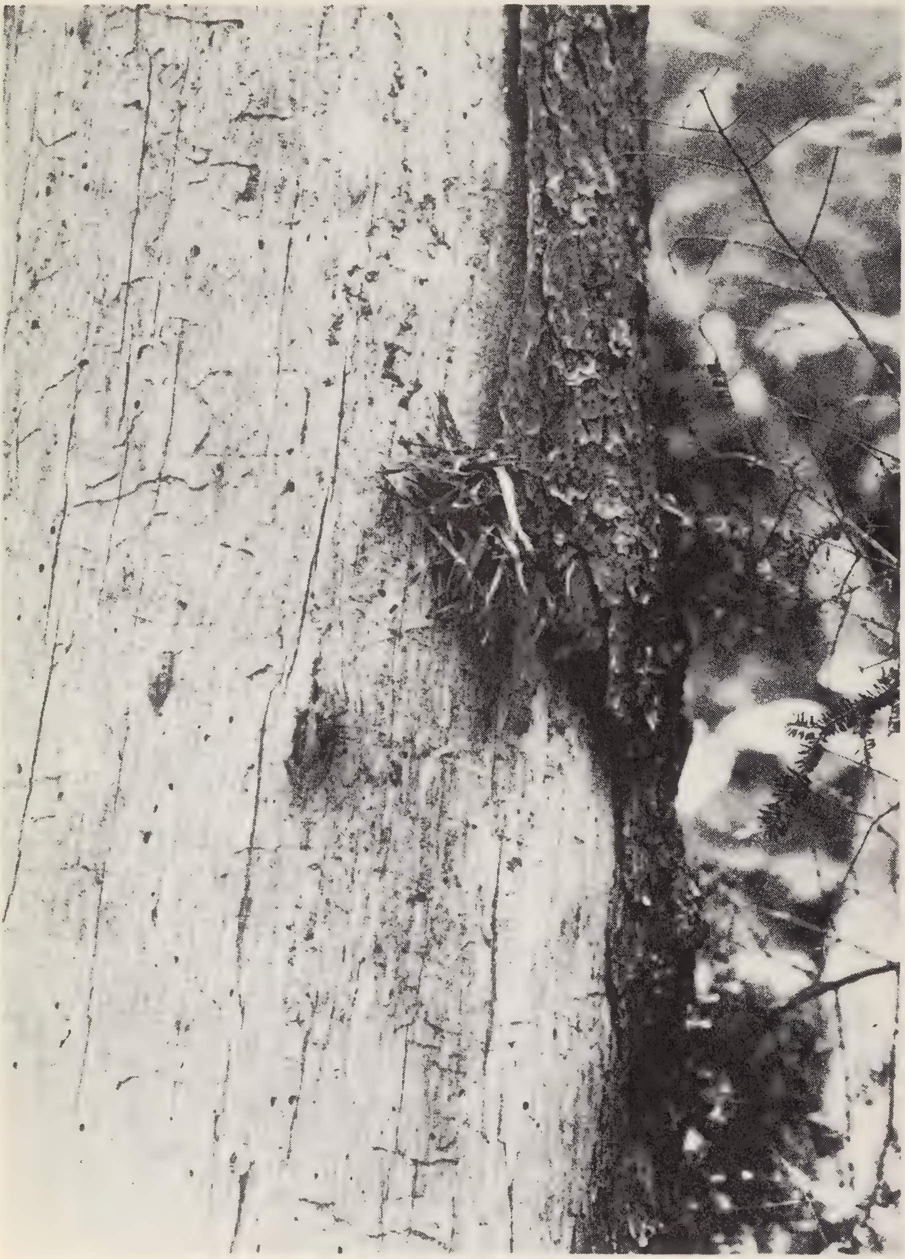

7-Nest of Brown Creeper.

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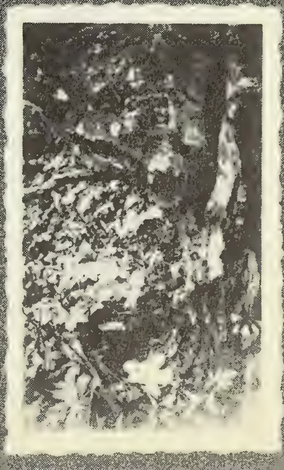

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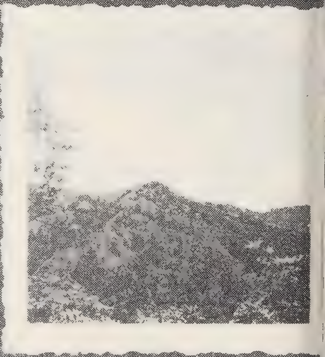

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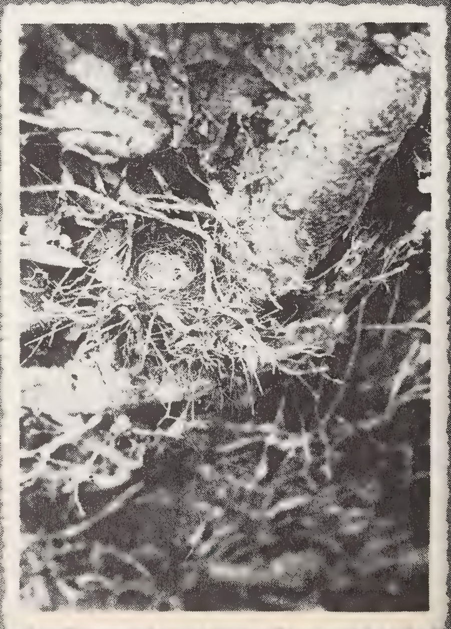

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# BLACKBIRD BANDING IN THE MID-SOUTH—I

BY BEN B. COFFEY, JR.

This is a tabulation of recoveries of blackbirds banded at Nashville, Pulaski, Memphis and Water Valey, Miss., and Monticello, Ark. With data on Bronzed Grackles, Cowbirds, Red-wings, and Rusty Blackbirds, we include that on Starlings because the latter, altho not scientifically classified with the blackbirds, are for convenience commonly grouped with them because of various similarities and frequent mutual association. Because of lack of time and space, local repeats and returns for Bronzed Grackles and Starlings, trap behaviour and analyses of the data in the tables, are not included at present but will follow in later issues. We are indebted to fellow-banders for their data so kindly furnished. These are: Mrs. Amelia R. Laskey of Nashville, Mrs. Sarah O. Rogers of Pulaski, Mr. C. M. Owens of Monticello, Ark., and Mr. E. Earl Bell of Water Valley, Miss.

Migrating flocks of Grackles and Starlings in late winter and early spring furnish the bulk of the trappings and the bulk of the recoveries. Winter flocks of Starlings also appear at times and start a run on a banding station. Because these species are generally without legal protection, and also are killed because of ignorance and because their flocking habits make them attractive targets to many gunners, the proportion of recoveries secured and reported is higher than for most other passerine species. The tables below are to some extent self-explanatory. Since the sub-stations at Memphis handled 'loads' equal to or greater than the home stations, the name of the operator is also tabulated. In fact, some of these stations were operated for and during blackbird migration periods only. Terms such as 'Coffey-1' refer to a separate location, as differentiated from '-2' or '-3'. We tried to list the recoveries systematically but succeeded perhaps, only with the Cowbirds.——We might call attention at this point to an unusual coincidence,—the recovery of separate Grackles at Altheimer, Ark. from Water Valley, Miss. and Monticello, Ark., respectively.

We are indebted to Messrs Hugh McCain and Tom Simpson for the reproduction of the maps of recoveries which are attached at the end of the issue. Places not listed are: Table I—McKim, Sask, not located on atlas; Table III—Newell, Ont., unable to locate on atlas or thru correspondence. Table IIb—None shown.

## BRONZED GRACKLES

| Number banded | | 1932 | 1933 | 1934 | 1935 | 1936 | 1937 | 1938 | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Nashville | 1—1931 | 59 | 22 | 30 | 11 | 55 | 80 | 51 | 309 |
| Pulaski | | | | | | 77 | 111 | 192 | 380 |
| Memphis | 4—1929 | | | 5 | 173 | 184 | 950 | 32 | 1348 |
| Water Valley | | | 24 | | | | 20 | | 44 |
| Monticello | | | | | | | 113 | | 113 |

Note: Pulaski—includes preceding winter months. Nashville—adults only. Memphis—migrating adults only (differentiated as far as possible).

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OUR ILLUSTRATIONS (continued)—No. 14, view from the trail on Mt. LeConte. No. 15, road near Newfound Gap. No. 16, 17, 18, some peaks and valleys of the Smokies. No. 19, Chimney Tops, most beautiful peak. No. 20, nest of Carolina Junco in tree roots. Photos No. 16, 17, and 18, were taken by Mr. Coffey; No 4, 5, 6, 11, 13, 14, 19 and 20, by Mr. Ganier; No. 1, 2, and 15, by Dr. Pickering; No. 3, 8 and 10, by Miss Schneider, and No. 7, 9 and 12, by Miss Slack.

### TABLE I. BRONZED GRACKLES—DATES OF BANDING AT MEMPHIS DATES AND PLACES OF RECOVERIES ELSEWHERE

RECOVERIES SHOWING MIGRATION AND SUMMER RANGE

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| A314137 | Coffey | Feb. 24, 1929 | Oct. 27, 1929 | Highland, Ill. |
| 34-340821 | Coffey-1 | Jan. 22, 1935 | Apr. 1, 1935 | Charleston, Ill. |
| 34-340887 | McCamey | Jan. 24, 1935 | May 17, 1935 | Cooter, Mo. |
| 34-353426 | Coffey-2 | Feb. 27, 1935 | July 7, 1935 | Webberville, Mich. |
| 34-353428 | Coffey-1 | Feb. 27, 1935 | May 5, 1935 | Rock Co., Wis. |
| 34-354401 | Coffey-2 | Mar. 11, 1935 | Apr. 16, 1935 | Paulding, Ohio |
| 34-354422 | Coffey-1 | Apr. 9, 1935 | May 18, 1935 | Pleasantville, Iowa |
| 34-354507 | McCamey | Mar. 19, 1935 | June 1, 1935 | Carp Lake, Mich. |
| 34-354516 | McCamey | Mar. 28, 1935 | May 15, 1935 | Killarney, Man.* |
| 34-354406 | Coffey-2 | Mar. 21, 1935 | Oct. 30, 1935 | Kansas City, Mo. |
| 34-354423 | Coffey-1 | Apr. 9, 1935 | May 5, 1936 | Staceyville, Iowa |
| 34-354501 | McCamey | Mar. 15, 1935 | Mar. 13, 1938 | LaCenter, Ky. |
| 35-333519 | McCamey | Feb. 19, 1936 | Apr. 5, 1936 | Nashua, Iowa |
| 34-367752 | Roost | Mar. 15, 1936 | July 26, 1936 | Brownton, Minn. |
| 37-312022 | Wallace | Feb. 26, 1937 | March, 1937 | Toledo, Ohio. |
| 37-312156 | Coffey-2 | Mar. 9, 1937 | Apr. 22, 1937 | Treloar, Mo. |
| 36-333435 | Wallace | Feb. 21. 1937 | May 12, 1937 | Indianapolis, Ind. |
| 37-312730 | Shaffer | Mar. 12, 1937 | May 29, 1937 | Springfield, S. D. |
| 37-312071 | Wallace | Mar. 8, 1937 | June 1, 1937 | McClure, Ohio |
| 37-312076 | Wallace | Mar. 9, 1937 | June 17, 1937 | Oxford, Ind. |
| 34-367389 | McCamey | Feb. 26, 1937 | Last week of July, 1937 | Dubuc, Sask. |
| 37-312110 | Wallace | Mar. 2, 1937 | Aug. 3, 1937 | Laird, Sask. |
| 37-312776 | Coffey-2 | Mar. 2[illegible], 1937 | Aug. 20, 1937 | Shelbyville, Ind. |
| 34-367359 | McCamey | Feb. 19, 1937 | Sep. 8, 1937 | Galena, Ill. |
| A395213 | Wallace | Feb. 14, 1937 | Sep. 29, 1937 | Goldfield, Iowa |
| 37-312546 | Coffey-2 | Mar. 16, 1937 | Nov. 7, 1937 | Farmland, Ind. |
| A395176 | Wallace | Feb. 4, 1937 | Mar. 27, 1938 | Mequon, Wis. |
| A395221 | Wallace | Feb. 14, 1937 | Apr. 13, 1938 | Huntington C. Ind. |
| 37-312091 | Wallace | Mar. 13, 1937 | Apr. 23, 1938 | Beach Grove, Ind. |
| 34-367856 | Vardaman | Feb. 2, 1937 | May 21, 1938 | Easton, Ill. |
| 37-312610 | Wallace | Mar. 21, 1937 | May 28, 1938 | Rockport, Ky. |
| 37-312798 | Coffey-2 | Mar. 30, 1937 | June 1, 1938 | Modesto, Ill. |
| 36-333486 | Coffey-2 | Feb. 24, 1937 | June 13, 1938 | Pana, Ill. |
| 37-310942 | Coffey-2 | May 1938 | June 25, 1938 | McKim, Sask. |

*This bird had a nest with 6 young therein; released alive.

RECOVERIES SHOWING RETURN TO WINTER AND EARLY SPRING MIGRATION RANGE

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 34-340875 | McCamey | Jan. 22, 1935 | Feb. 15, 1936 | Waterford, Miss. |
| 34-340893 | McCamey | Feb. 18, 1935 | Mar. 27, 1937 | Lepanto, Ark. |
| 34-354505 | McCamey | Mar. 17, 1935 | Dec. 29, 1935 | Helena, Ark. |
| 35-319089 | McCamey | Jan. 29, 1936 | Mar. 6, 1938 | Ashport, Tenn. |
| 35-333583 | McCamey | Feb. 20, 1936 | Feb. 9, 1938 | Parchman, Miss. |
| 37-312183 | Park | Feb. 25, 1937 | Mar. 6, 1937 | Osceola, Ark. |
| 37-312059 | Wallace | Mar. 5. 1937 | Mar. 29, 1938 | Tyronza, Ark. |
| 37-312836 | Shaffer | Apr. 10, 1937 | Apr. 10, 1938 | Dimple, Texas |

## TABLE II BRONZED GRACKLES—DATES OF BANDING—DATES AND PLACES OF RECOVERIES

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| MONTICELLO (ARK.) | 37-305309 | Feb. 26, 1937 | May 20, 1937 | Laura, Sask. |
| | 37-305362 | Mar. 9, 1937 | May 25, 1937 | Elkhorn, Neb. |
| | 37-305392 | Mar. 16, 1937 | Sep. 2, 1937 | Altheimer, Ark. |
| | 37-305373 | Mar. 11, 1937 | Mar. 30, 1938 | Superior, Iowa |
| WATER VALLEY (MISS.) | B307991 | Apr. 5, 1933 | Apr. 1, 1934 | Altheimer, Ark. |
| PULASKI | 35-328453 | Jan. 16, 1936 | Apr. 20, 1936 | Gladesville, Tenn. |
| | 35-335111 | Feb. 18, 1937 | Aug. 19, 1937 | Lakeside, Ohio |
| NASHVILLE | B331828 | Apr. 2, 1932 | Feb. 9, 1933 | Savannah, Tenn. |
| | B331825 | Apr. 1, 1932 | Nov. 27, 1933 | Centerville, Ala. |
| | B394176 | Oct. 3, 1934 | Jan. 25, 1935 | Rienzi, Miss. |

### IIb RECOVERIES OF 'FOREIGN' GRACKLES AT STATIONS

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| A253311 | Madison, Wis. | Fall of 1930 | Mar. 15, 1931 | Water Valley |
| A281883 | Kansas, Ill. | May 25, 1934 | Mar. 15, 1936 | Lakeview,Miss. |
| 34-300373 | Cincinnati, O. | May 24, 1935 | Feb. 21, 1937 | Pulaski |

## STARLINGS

| Number banded | 1934 | 1935 | 1936 | 1937 | 1938 | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Nashville | 207 | | 86 | 5 | 5 | 303 |
| Pulaski | | | 142 | | 11 | 153 |
| Memphis | | | 415 | 30 | 2 | 447 |

Note: Pulaski—includes preceding winter months; likewise Memphis, '37.

## TABLE III STARLINGS—DATES OF BANDING—DATES AND PLACES OF RECOVERIES

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| MEMPHIS | | | | | |
| | 35-333684 | Powell | Jan. 29, 1936 | Mar. 19, 1936 | Athens Co., Ohio |
| | 35-336555 | Wallace | Feb. 7, 1936 | Apr. 6, 1936 | Fairbanks, Pa. |
| | 35-333591 | McCamey-3 | Feb. 24, 1936 | May 20, 1936 | Newell, Ont. |
| | 35-333667 | Powell | Jan. 24, 1936 | Jun. 1, 1936 | Ripley, Ohio |
| | 35-319069 | McCamey | Jan. 27, 1936 | Jun. 28, 1936 | Kalkaska, Mich. |
| | 35-333590 | McCamey-2 | Feb. 23, 1936 | Aug. 13, 1936 | Chatham, Ont. |
| | 35-212791 | McCamey | Feb. 21, 1936 | Mar. 1, 1937 | Clarksdale, Miss. |
| | 35-213111 | Wallace | Feb. 21, 1936 | Nov. 11, 1937 | Russelville, Ohio |
| | 35-319035 | Powell | Jan. 20, 1936 | Jun. 1, 1937 | Bay City, Mich. |
| | 35-333664 | Powell | Jan. 23, 1936 | Jul. 10, 1937 | Acton, Ont. |
| | 35-336546 | Wallace | Feb. 20, 1936 | May 8, 1938 | Harlem, Ont. |
| PULASKI | 35-217705 | | Dec. 28, 1935 | May 5, 1937 | Canton, Ohio |
| | 35-208213 | | Jan. 26, 1936 | Feb. 20, 1936 | Fayetteville, Tenn. |
| | 35-217750 | | Jan. 10, 1936 | May 8, 1936 | Coshocton, Ohio |
| | 35-217744 | | Jan. 7, 1936 | Nov. 16, 1936 | Vienna, Ohio |
| | 36-208218 | | Jan. 30, 1936 | Apr. 26, 1937 | Wilbur, W. Va. |
| NASHVILLE | B394006 | | Feb. 24, 1934 | Apr. 27, 1934 | Dunkirk, N. Y. |
| | B394020 | | Feb. 24 & 26 '34 | May 20, 1934 | Wilson Co., Tenn. |
| | 34-200139 | | Feb. 24, 1934 | Feb. 7, 1936 | Norton, Va. |
| | 34-200119 | | Feb. 22, 1934 | Jul. 29, 1936 | Marathon, Ohio |
| | B394012 | | Feb. 24, 1934 | Aug. 27, 1936 | Swanton, Ohio |
| | 34-200090 | | Feb. 11, 1934 | Oct. 15, 1936 | Clifton Spr. N. Y. |
| | 36-200437 | | Feb. 18, 1936 | Feb. 4, 1937 | Pleas. Unity, Pa. |

Cowbirds are common transients in the Mississippi Valley and particularly, it appears to the writer, in the eastern Arkansas delta section. In late winter large flocks appear along highways, feeding where rice has been spilled from moving trucks. In past years large numbers have been banded at Mount Belvieu, Texas, by Dr. A. R. Shearer, and it was natural that Mr. C. M. Owens at Monticello, Ark. should be our leading Cowbird trapper. Devoting considerable time to his trapping,—in fact, most of the daylight hours during a period of six weeks in 1937, he found his only limit was his number of traps which was remedied before the migrating wave was over. In 1937 he banded 1,349 Cowbirds, in 1936—43, A large number of repeats were obtained but it was impossible to record them due to the large number of birds handled in such a short period.

Cowbirds banded at Memphis were all caught at night in the Lakeview, Miss. blackbird roost as follows: Mar. 22, 1936—19; Mar. 13 & 27, 1937—39. No repeats, returns or recoveries recorded. The birds banded were evidently all transients. No Cowbirds were reported for Pulaski. At Nashville 13 have been banded since Jan. 22, 1935. A female repeated the same day (Jan. 22) and the next day. An immature bird banded June 24 repeated 9 times from June 28 to July 8, inclusive. No return or recovery records.

**TABLE IV** COWBIRDS—DATES OF BANDING AT MONTICELLO, ARK.

DATES AND PLACES OF RECOVERIES ELSEWHERE.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 35-328528 | Feb. 11, 1936 | Jan. 16, 1937 | Centerville, Tex. |
| 37-224022 | Mar. 8, 1937 | Mar. 15, 1937 | Arp, Tenn. |
| 37-128930 | Feb. 10, 1937 | Mar. 22, 1937 | Sikeston, Mo. |
| 37-220012 | Feb. 12, 1937 | Mar. 23, 1937 | Gould, Ark. |
| 37-224058 | Mar. 9, 1937 | Mar. 23, 1937 | Gould, Ark. |
| 37-139484 | Feb. 25, 1937 | Apr. 5, 1937 | Baldwin, Ill. |
| 37-139483 | Feb. 25, 1937 | Apr. 27, 1937 | Momence, Ill. |
| 37-224044 | Mar. 9, 1937 | May 9, 1937 | Ottumwa, Iowa |
| 37-210271 | Feb. 6, 1937 | May 22, 1937 | Timbo, Ark. |
| 37-129995 | Feb. 25, 1937 | Sep. 23, 1937 | Savanna, Mo. |
| (SEE IVb | | Nov. 19, 1937 | Monticello) |
| 37-224067 | Mar. 9, 1937 | Nov. 26, 1937 | Sulphur, La. |
| 37-139762 | Mar. 4, 1937 | Dec. 1, 1937 | Corpus Christi, Tex. |
| 37-139453 | Feb. 25, 1937 | Dec. 19, 1937 | Orange, Tex. |
| 37-224027 | Mar. 8, 1937 | Jan. 7, 1938 | Lacassine, La. |
| 37-210235 | Feb. 2, 1937 | Jan. 13, 1938 | Gilmer, Tex. |
| 37-139713 | Mar. 2, 1937 | Jan. 15, 1938 | Houston, Tex. |
| 37-210295 | Feb. 17, 1937 | Jan. 24, 1938 | Otey, Tex. |

IVb RETURNS AT MONTICELLO

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 37-220110 | Feb. 19, 1937 | Retrapped | Nov. 19, 1937 |

IVc RECOVERIES OF BIRDS BANDED AT THE OTHER POINTS—NONE

IVd RECOVERIES AT MID-SOUTH STATIONS OF OTHER BANDED COWBIRDS—NONE

### RED-WINGS

None banded except near Memphis and no repeat, return, or recovery records. With one exception all wre banded at Lakeview, Miss. A few juveniles were banded in the so-called 'highway bar-pit' while all others, juvenile and adults, were banded at or near the large 'bar-pit' used as a roost. Juveniles banded in or just off the nest numbered: 1933—2, 1934—24, 1935—33, 1936—10. Adults caught by hand in the roost at night numbered: 1934—13, 1936—69, 1937—58.

### RUSTY BLACKBIRDS

Monticello, Ark.——4 banded in 1937. No further records. Memphis—— All banded at the Lakeview, Miss. roost: 1934—4, 1936—6, 1937—52.

One recovery record as follows (the band was removed but no further details available): 36—225169 Mar. 13, 1937——Apr. 12, 1937, Lake City, Ark.

Nashville and Pulaski——None banded.

MEMPHIS, TENN., September, 1938.

## THE SEASON

MEMPHIS AREA:—The Painted Buntings seem to be holding their own, without any noticeable increase in the last two years. A pair evidently nested along the railroad in the next block from our yard as at intervals we could faintly hear the male singing. On July 14 this flaming bit of color appeared nearby and could be heard singing all thru the day. He moved into our yard and on the 18th we discovered the reason for his continuous presence when we saw the female feeding two young birds. They were 10 or 12 days old and escaped our efforts to catch and band them. After the 19th we did not see them.——Wallace noted Red-eyed Vireos feeding young in Overton Park on July 9. On Aug. 15, he found a Blue-winged Warbler and a Black-throated Green Warbler there. Walker and Welch found Black and White Warblers and Parula Warblers common in the Park thruout the last half of July. On the 22nd they listed 4 of the former and 37 of the latter, including young.——The Municipal Airport was practically devoid of bird life on July 17, since the turf is kept closely cut. However, among the few Meadowlarks there the slim, trim lines of an Upland Plover were noted and afforded some of the Scouts their first view of this species. A few were heard occasionally, passing over at night during late July and early August.——An albino swallow in company with Rough-winged Swallows and thought to be one of them, was seen Aug. 16, just south of Lakeview, by Bob Shaffer and Robt. Hunt. It had pure white wings, head, tail and upperparts and light pinkish-brown underparts. ——Several trips were made in July in an unsuccessful hunt for Short-billed Marsh Wrens and Grasshopper Sparrows in the open portions of the Ensley-Darwin bottoms, southwest of town, and across the state line along the Lakeview Levee. The former is the traditional breeding ground of the Mississippi Kite and on July 17, we saw one at close range, just as we turned back from our search. One wren was found near the levee by Wallace on Aug. 19, but none on Sept. 5 and 25th. Two Cliff Swallows were seen there July 17 as well as the first of the Bank Swallows.——A single Coot and a L. Scaup were recorded July 7 at Lakeview; also Am. Egret, 14. Due to the Mississippi River being slightly higher than usual, the water level at Mud Lake remained unsuitable for herons or shorebirds, while the 'bar-pits' inside the levee dried up from lack of rain locally. As a result, few trips were made and still less recorded. A trip across the river into Arkansas was made on Aug. 14 and in the 'bar-pits' along Harahan viaduct 25 Wood Ibis were noted with an equal number of Am. Egrets and a lone Snowy Egret. A single Wood Ibis was seen there Sept. 3. On the 11th we pushed on to Mound City Chute but saw little besides about 20 Little Blue Herons going to roost in the willows. Meanwhile, Wallace recorded 20 at Mud Lake on Aug. 19 the highest number for the period. On Sept. 5 we ranged the levee south to Norfolk Landing near which large number of shorebirds bordered two large 'pits' but closer examination disclosed about 250 to be Killdeers with 2 Semi-palmated Sandpipers, and 15 unidentified 'peeps' (Least, Semi-palmated, or Western Sandpipers). At Mud Lake 15 Am. Egrets, 3 Little Blues, and 5 Great Blues were seen. By Sept. 25 conditions were more favorable and on that date Whittemore and Pond, et al, noted 19 Great Blues, 32 Little Blues (including 2 adults), 350 Am. Egrets, 95 Wood Ibises, 1 Black-bellied Plover, 6 Semi-palmated Plovers, 400 Semi-palmated and 100 Least Sandpipers, one or more Western Sandpipers, 15 Pectoral Sandpipers, 10 Blue-winged Teals, 2 Wood Ducks, 400 Tree, 15 Bank, 1 or more Cliff and 60 Rough-winged Swallows, 1 Osprey and 1 Duck Hawk.——Wallace listed 20 Least Terns and 8 Black Terns along Riverside Drive on Aug. 17, a few more than was seen Aug. 14——On Sept. 29 three Broad-winged Hawks were seen over town just north of the business district. The same afternoon 14 were seen over the Southwestern campus by Walker and Welch.—BEN COFFEY, JR., Memphis.

CORINTH AREA:—On May 25, Elgin Wright and I found a Barn Swallow nest in a dairy barn near town. The nest was typical to the last detail and contained four young birds. According to the owner of the place, who had been watching the swallows, the nest was formed of dirt and small bits of cinders, rolled into pellets that had been moistened by the birds at a small pool in the barn lot. The nest was attached to a rafter some 8 feet from ground, and lined with feathers.——Two Green Herons nested and reared three babies in June at Waukomis Lake. The little flock of five had worlds of fun playing in the button-willows and reeds. Sometimes they would all fly down upon one another in a close huddle on the ground, evidently a brief family pow-wow.——I found a female Towhee at Pickwick Dam, July 7. Young birds were near, as I could hear their chirps but could not see them in the thick underbrush. The mother bird was excited when I was near. A Hooded Warbler appeared at the same spot where I saw the Towhee——Six immature Little Blue Herons appeared at Waukomis July 28. I got very close to them and easily distinguished them from possible Snowy Egret. The birds were pure white with olive legs and feet. The Egrets have blackish legs, yellow feet and yellow bill. Amateur bird students sometimes lump all the big snowy birds into one class and call them white cranes—a careless misnomer.——One evening at dark, about the first of August, I heard a strange song in field near roadside. All the adjectives I know would not adequately describe its melody. I went back each evening and heard the song repeated, each time from the same spot. It was too dark to see. At last I got there early enough to find and identify the bird. It turned out to be, greatly to my surprise, a Field Sparrow. I know the Field Sparrow's song well, as I have heard it a thousand times; but never before had I heard the particular combination of notes. There were four or five grown birds and a dozen young ones in the grass. Checking up on the subject, I have found that sometimes an individual Field Sparrow will have a wide repertoire.—BENJ. R. WARRINER, Corinth.

NASHVILLE AREA:—A summer of normal and well distributed rainfall produced an abundant food supply for the birds and more than the average number of young were brought forth as a result. We are apparently entering a cycle of wet years, having just passed thru a series of dry ones, and a general increase in birdlife will probably result. Insect life was and a general increase in birdlife will probably result. Insect life was noticeably abundant the past summer but there were birds enough to keep it in check.——Shorebirds have been unusually scarce this fall, believed to be due to sufficient rainfall in the Northwest to fill the prairie sloughs and making it unnecessary for the waders to move southward.——Grackles, Starlings, Robins, etc., have been roosting along the city streets, in the maples, in their usual large numbers. They come in from the country before sundown, having learned that they are less apt to be shot at in the city. People who live near them, however, complain bitterly about being awakened too early by their noise. Swifts, too, have been present in great numbers and many thousands have been banded by local bird banders.——Mr. and Mrs. B. H. Abernathy have raised a flock of Bob-whites, hatching a nestful of abandoned eggs under a bantam, The birds, now about grown, range the neighborhood but still come home to be fed and will eat from their hands.——Mr. H. O. Todd, of Murfreesboro, reports the taking of a Pigeon Hawk there the last week in September and he prepared the specimen for his collection; we have very few records for this transient visitor.——The Golden Eagle which has been kept at a filling station near Murfreesboro, and retained by some legal process, was released from its cage recently by an interested citizen.——A pair of Bald Eagles are again reported to be making headquarters at Indian Lake near Hendersonville.——Two nests of the Barn Swallow were found by Mrs. Laskey on June 25, in a small culvert under a road in Warner Park. One nest held young just hatched and the other had just been completed. There was a foot of water in the culvert. With one exception (*Migrant*, IV, p. 22) all nests previously found here have been in barns.——Hundreds of Purple Martins formerly nested about the cornices of the old Fayetteville courthouse before it burned. In its reconstructon, no provision was made for the Martins and so this picturesque and animated feature has been lost to the square. At nearby Wartrace, a feature of the town is the large Martin house at its center, in the railway depot grounds.—A. F. GANIER, Nashville.

CLARKSVILLE AREA:—During the last quarter our list of birds occurring in Montgomery County has been increased by two species and now stands at 195. The additions are: Double-crested Cormorant, one observed on the Cumberland River near Palmyra on May 28 and an immature bird shown to us Sept. 29 after it had been killed on Dunbar's Cave lake; and Caspian Tern, one seen as it flew over town on Sept. 10,—white bird of large size with black wing-tips and moderately notched tail.——As the fledgling Purple Martins were leaving the nests, about the middle of July, they were seen late in the day lined up on the ridge of a bungalow roof that seemed to serve them for walking exercises. A few birds would come down the slope and then hasten back to their place in the line whereupon others would follow their examples. After a few evenings of this they all joined the roost of their elders on the telephone wires.——Dr. Pickering was given a young Martin that had fallen out of the nest in a colony in another part of town. The youngster was raised by feeding him for about a week on hamburger meat, giving him water and providing exercise by setting him on the clothesline. When the bird finally took to his wings he was immediately met and apparently also fed, by one of the old birds from Dr. Pickering's flock.—Hummingbirds attracted our attention as they were gleaning insects from the branches and twigs of a dead honey locust. We also saw a number of these dauntless mites one rainy day fly about during hard showers that had driven all other birds to shelter. This was while the trumpet vines were in bloom and young probably had to be fed. ——Strange behavior was noticed in a Great Blue Heron in that we found him several hundred yards away from water although there were suitable ponds in the neighborhood. Neither did he go there after we flushed him,—instead we found him in the shade of a tree row at the opening of the lane that leads to the farm we had visited. About the middle of August Cliff Swallows were seen many miles inland from their nesting sites on the Cumberland River.——Aug. 27 the first nightly migration of Warblers was heard, however a stray Magnolia Warbler had already been found a month earlier. Oven-birds and Blackburnian Warblers seem more abundant this fall than in other years.——One of our members was fortunate in seeing a Nighthawk flight on Sept. 1 in which probably 300 birds took part. They came at dusk from the northwest and flew rather low and in straight lines, but were widely separated. While there was only few of them in sight at any one time, there seemed to be no end to the procession and it made a spectacle that would thrill any bird-student. On the same day, another member reported a group of 40 Nighthawks——An even stranger happening, probably, was an enormous gathering of Chimney Swifts observed by Dr. Pickering on July 19. Not risking an estimate of their number he states that the sky was black with them as he watched them mill around for about 15 minutes and that he has never seen a similar mass of Swifts. They did not concentrate at their roosts here until about Sept. 1, six weeks later.—ALFRED CLEBSCH, Clarksville.

KNOXVILLE AREA:—There are a few items of interest which should be mentioned in the summer notes from this area. Black Terns were more plentiful on Norris Lake than any other water-birds if observations from three areas are indicative. These localities were: Doak's Creek Landing, the junction of the Powell and Clinch Rivers, and at the Andersonville boat dock. The Little Blue, Great Blue and Green Heron and in addition, one Herring Gull, were the other water-birds seen on Norris Lake since mid-June.—Lake Andrew Jackson, a small lake about twelve miles west of Knoxville was the only other locality that yielded anything of interest. On July 24, Charles Baird, Mrs. Walker, and I spent some 30 to 40 minutes chasing a duck in and out of the willow thickets and marsh grasses at one end of the lake. Finally it took off in 'Coot-fashion' and flew to another patch of willows. On Aug. 7 we found the duck again but this time it was molting and could not fly. From its size, color, greenish bill, and red legs we decided it was a Red-legged Black Duck.—The Pied-billed Grebe and Least Bittern were found on July 24 and the Least Bittern again on the 30th. A Black Tern was present at the lake on July 30. The Green Herons were last seen on Aug. 13. Shorebirds were rare or else late in arriving because only the Spotted Sandpiper was reported this summer.—Hawks were very rare. In fact two pairs of Sparrow Hawks were the only ones seen during the summer. A young Sparrow Hawk was caught in Science Hall, University of Tennessee campus on June 10 and another brood was learning to fly on Aug. 26. These hawks have nested in Science Hall tower for the past four years. —WM. WALKER, Knoxville.

JOHNSON CITY AREA:—The breeding season was very late getting under way this spring. The Robins did not arrive until Jan. 20 while in the winter of 1936-1937 they arrived during Christmas week in large numbers, harbingers of the beautifully mild January of 1937 which was to follow. I am convinced that in addition to a homing and directional instinct the birds can sense the nature of the weather and temperature of the approaching weeks, and govern their migration in accordance therewith. Breeding was abundant in the latter part of the season,—young Robins were being fed on my lawn as late as Aug. 8 and at the same time the Song Sparrows were were also feeding nestlings.—The Prairie Horned Lark was observed in Shady Valley, Johnson County, on June first. I had spent the day in the Valley with my colleague, Robert B. Lyle, and was turning homeward about four o'clock, traveling on a byroad, when we flushed a fine specimen. We stopped at once and by the aid of our field glasses soon located the bird which, being very accommodating, gave us abundant opportunity to observe and study his markings. This species breeds regularly, tho sparingly, in this area, having been found from the lower portion of the Transition zone at 1500 feet elevation to the Canadian zone on Little Roan Mountain at an elevation of 5300 feet. During the winter it occurs in large flocks, as many as 100 birds having been observed in one day. Occasionally the more severe winter weather brings us the northern race.—The beautiful and rare Wilson's Warbler was observed on Roane Creek in Johnson County, May 7. The patches of lowland along the creek supply the conditions that it loves. At the point of observation the altitude was 2500 feet. This beautiful warbler might well have been called the 'Black-capped Warbler.' As much as one might wish to laud the name of Wilson, it always seems to the writer that names descriptive of the bird itself are much to be preferred.—BRUCE P. TYLER, Johnson City.

# THE ROUND TABLE

LAUGHING GULL AT REELFOOT LAKE:—An immature Laughing Gull (*Larus atricilla*) was collected at Reelfoot Lake on August 9, 1938, and is the first record of this species in West Tennessee and the third for the state. It was observed swimming in the stump-dotted area east of Upper Blue Basin, at the northen end of the lake. A close approach was possible, but a sight record of this accidental species was felt to be insufficient and it was collected by the writer.—The Laughing Gull in this plumage is ashy-gray above. with a white rump and clear underparts. The white tips of the dark primaries and secondaries form a prominent border on the hind edge of the wing —a good field characteristic. A narrow white line terminates the broad black band of the tail. The measurements of the specimen, a female of this year, are slightly less than the typical measurements as given in Chapman's "Handbook of Birds". The identification was verified by Dr. Alexander Wetmore, of the U. S. National Museum. The specimen is now in possession of the writer. — A single bird of this species was collected from a flock of six near Knoxville, Sept. 18, 1932 (*The Migrant*, 1933, pp. 8-9 and p. 47). A single bird (with head black) was taken about 1915 on the French Broad River near Del Rio (The Migrant, 1935, p. 50).—THOMAS W. SIMPSON, Reelfoot Lake Biological Station.

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER AT MUD LAKE:—On Sept. 25, 1938, the writer spent the late afternoon observing the variety of waterbirds which had been attracted to Mud Lake—a very shallow body of water ½ mile long situated on the Tenn.—Miss. state line south of Memphis. The shorebirds were given the most attention and the number observed was approximately 650, most of which were 'peeps'. However, one large shorebird was flushed and observed as it flew along the margin of the lake. While in flight the bird continually gave a two-syllabled, more or less plaintive whistle. Evidently it was quite shy as it remained in flight several minutes, finally landing on the north side of the lake. By gradually moving closer thru knee-deep water and mud the writer was finally able to approach to within 50 feet of the bird before it flushed again. It was slightly larger and stockier than the nearby Killdeers. Its bill was stout, typically plover-like, and its general appearance was uniformly grayish. No distinctive markings were made out in the limited time in which the writer had to make his observations until the bird flew; then black patches showed up prominently on the under surfaces of the wings and axillars. Identifications as a Black-bellied Plover was made on the basis of its size, plover-like appearance, and black axillary feathers under the wing which according to Peterson are determinative in any plumage.—WENDELL L. WHITTEMORE, University of Tennessee Medical School, Memphis.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the first record for the Memphis area.

EARLY MARSH HAWK RECORD:—Although there are early September records of the Marsh Hawk I was surprised to see a hawk of this species, Sept. 5, just east of Brownsville, while driving from Memphis to Nashville. It was circling at a low elevation directly over the highway and I saw it clearly in the bright sunlight, checking the rump patch, broad tail bars, general size and shape, to my full satisfaction, as the car travelled towards the bird.—HARRY C. MONK, Nashville.

NOTES FROM PARIS:—Last winter the White-throated Sparrows and the Slate-colored Juncos appeared often in flocks and were our most common winter birds. Occasionally a Hermit Thrush was seen in a deep wood, and perhaps the small but pert Winter Wren. The Golden-crowned Kinglets preferred a cedar wood. Later the Chipping Sparrow appeared on our lawn followed by other sparrows. And in May large flocks of Goldfinches were seen about town while Cedar Waxings seemed partial to the plantings at a local cemetry. A Black and White Warbler creeping up a tree trunk on the lawn, proved an interesting sight.——Other common summer residents than those listed elsewhere are: Bronzed Grackle, Indigo Bunting, Maryland Yellow-throat, Brown Thrasher, Wood Thrush, Meadowlark, Purple Martin, Tufted Titmouse, Flicker, Bob-white, Mourning Dove, Wood Pewee.——American Egrets were seen at Sulphur Well this summer. —PAUL CROSSWY, Paris.

NOTES FROM MURFREESBORO:—On August 1, after two or three days of rain, about fifty Black Terns appeared on a swollen branch about four or five miles east of Murfreesboro. A specimen was taken and the skin is now in the possession of Mr. H. O. Todd, Jr.—Upland Plovers have been seen and heard flying over since July 13.—A late Mourning Dove nest with young birds in it was found on August 28. We estimated that they would be able to leave the nest not sooner than a week or ten days later.—GEORGE DAVIS, Murfreesboro.

SUMMER BIRD-LIFE OF A MT. PLEASANT FARM: — Observations made this summer have been less than usual but I will, however, try to make some estimate of the more common breeding birds on my farm of 200 acres. It is bounded on one side by the East fork of Bigby Creek, and there is about 25 acres of bottom land next to the creek, which is bordered with timber. I have one field of about 15 acres in which are scattered about 50 old trees, many with dead tops. The rest of the farm is slightly rolling, and divided into fields of from 5 to 25 acres, with trees or bushes growing in practically all of the fence rows, as I do not keep my fence rows clean. There is a small stream which bisects the farm, and which is bordered with young timber, from 20 to 40 feet high. Close by this stream is a pond of about a half acre where grow a few cat-tails in which a few pairs of Red-wings nest every year. About 60 acres of row crops are grown each year, about 25 acres of small grain, and I usually have about 75 to 85 acres of lespedeza or grass, the balance being in thickets and timber bordering the little stream and fences. I think the commonest breeding birds would be about as follows: Robin, Meadowlark, Blue Jay, Brown Thrasher, Cardinal, Catbird, Carolina Wren, Bewick's Wren, Mourning Dove, Indigo Bunting. There are a number of other birds, including Bob-whites, (have seen 4 young coveys recently), Chickadees, Tufted Titmice, one pair each of Sparrow Hawks and Barn Owls, Screech Owls, Red-wings, Bronzed Grackles, Starlings (a few pairs in the old trees), Downy, Hairy, Red-headed and Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Flickers, White-eyed and Red-eyed Vireos, Maryland Yellow-throats, Yellow Warblers, etc., that are present on the place in summer, most or all of which I feel sure breed here. Some of these may be somewhat commoner than some of the ten mentioned above. There seem to be very few sparrows of any kind on the farm in summer, except, of course, the "English," which I did not include in my list. Grackles do not seem to breed here the last few years, although large flocks of them appear towards the end of summer, and this applies also to Starlings and Red-wings. I am only mentioning birds which I see on my farm. If you would take this whole vicinity, the Grackles, Red-wings and Starlings would probably be quite high in the list. I believe the list as a whole would be typical of the farming country between Mt. Pleasant and Columbia.

I think we had more Doves this year, up to about July 1, than we have had for many years, but they seem to have disappeared some time between July and Sept. 1, as the shooting has been very poor. Nearly every farmer around here now plants lespedeza with his wheat. After the wheat is cut, this forms a very dense cover, and the Doves, according to my theory, no longer feed in the wheat stubble as they used to when the wheat was followed by crab grass and foxtail, but hunt some place where they can get to the ground to feed.—DAN R. GRAY, Mt. Pleasant.

SOME UNUSUALLY LARGE BROODS; SCARCITY OF LATE NESTS: —My banding records of nestlings this year excell past seasons in numbers of apparently successful large broods. Francis Lawrence, Arthur McMurray, and William Simpson assisted in locating and banding some of these broods on the following dates: April 22, 4 Cardinal fieldgings ready to leave; April 23, in nest box at Warner Park, brood of 7 Bluebirds; April 23, a Robin with 5 nestlings; April 30, a Bewick's Wren with 7 fledglings ready to leave their nest in a drain pipe on a terrace at Warner Park; May 4 and May 17, Mockingbirds with 5 nestlings each; April 25, May 14 and May 18, Brown Thrashers with 5 nestlings each. The April 25th group nested at the home banding station and all remained here for at least a month,—the entire group of five going into the banding traps repeatedly until the last of May. A resident pair of Mockingbirds (color banded) had four successful nests built within an area of 9 by 36 yards. Two fledglings left the first nest April 21, four from the second nest on May 22, three left the third nest June 25, and four left the fourth nest by July 30.—This year there were no

August or September nests in the garden and only a few were observed elsewhere. In August one Bluebird, one Catbird, and one Dove nest were seen. Possibly the abundant rainfall and luxuriant vegetation was conducive to a successful normal breeding period with no urge for late attempts—AMELIA R. LASKEY, Nashville.

NOTES FROM KNOXVILLE:—Early in March great flocks of Robins, hundreds in numbers, appeared at my place on the top of a ridge seven miles north of Knoxville. They remained in the neighborhood for several days, running over the lawn and garden during the day, roosting in the woods nearby at night. These, I suppose, were Northern Robins returning from the South. We have Southern Robins with us the year around. However, it is impossible to distinguish these two races in the field.—About the same time that the Robins came, Phoebes began to be vocal. A few of these flycatchers often winter in this region. Less often is this also true of Brown Thrashers which were in evidence early in April.—Both the Slate-colored Junco and White-throated Sparrow were unusually abundant at my place during the past winter. By April 15 the Juncos had left while the White-throats lingered until May 12. I have, on one occasion, thought I heard the song of the latter here in June. Every year I hope that they may nest here but their habit is to be abundant one day and suddenly vanish during the night. That birds do change their habitat is attested by the well-established fact that Robins did not nest in the Knoxville area fifty years ago but are now common.—Before the Juncos and White-throats left, numbers of Chipping Sparrows had appeared. These were unusually abundant this year, beginning to leave by Aug. 31.

Other birds that were especially numerous during the past season were Summer Tanagers and Carolina Wrens. Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers and Flickers or 'Golden-winged Woodpeckers' have been plentiful. Fewer in numbers were Chimney Swifts, Catbirds, and warblers of all sorts. A bird that ordinarily nests just outside my windows every year, the White-eyed Vireo, was absent this year. Two Bob-whites appeared at my feeding station for the first time during this summer and Bluebirds have eaten there every day.—The most unusual visitor was a Pileated Woodpecker, not to the feeding station but to a pokeberry bush left growing for the benefit of the birds, in a flower border about twenty feet away from the house. The Red-headed Woodpecker is never seen on my place although it is extremely numerous in a village about a mile away.—Among the larger birds, Crows and Hawks of all kinds were noticeably fewer in numbers throughout this region than they were five years ago.—LUCY TEMPLETON, Knoxville.

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CLARKSVILLE:—Meetings are scheduled for Oct. 11, 25; Nov. 8, 22; and Dec. 6, 20. The mid-winter bird census of the chapter will be made on Sunday, December 18. Alfred Clebsch, 838 Gracey, is secretary.

MEMPHIS:—The Fall Field Day will be held Oct. 30, and, for the third year, in the Shelby Forest. Bi-weekly meetings at the Pink Palace Museum will resume shortly. Mrs. T. I. Klyce, Raleigh, Tenn., is secretary.

# THE MIGRANT

A QUARTERLY JOURNAL, DEVOTED TO THE STUDY OF TENNESSEE BIRDS.

PUBLISHED BY THE TENNESSEE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY.
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Items for publication should be sent to the Editor.

*"The simple truth about birds is interesting enough,*
*it is not necessary to go beyond it."*

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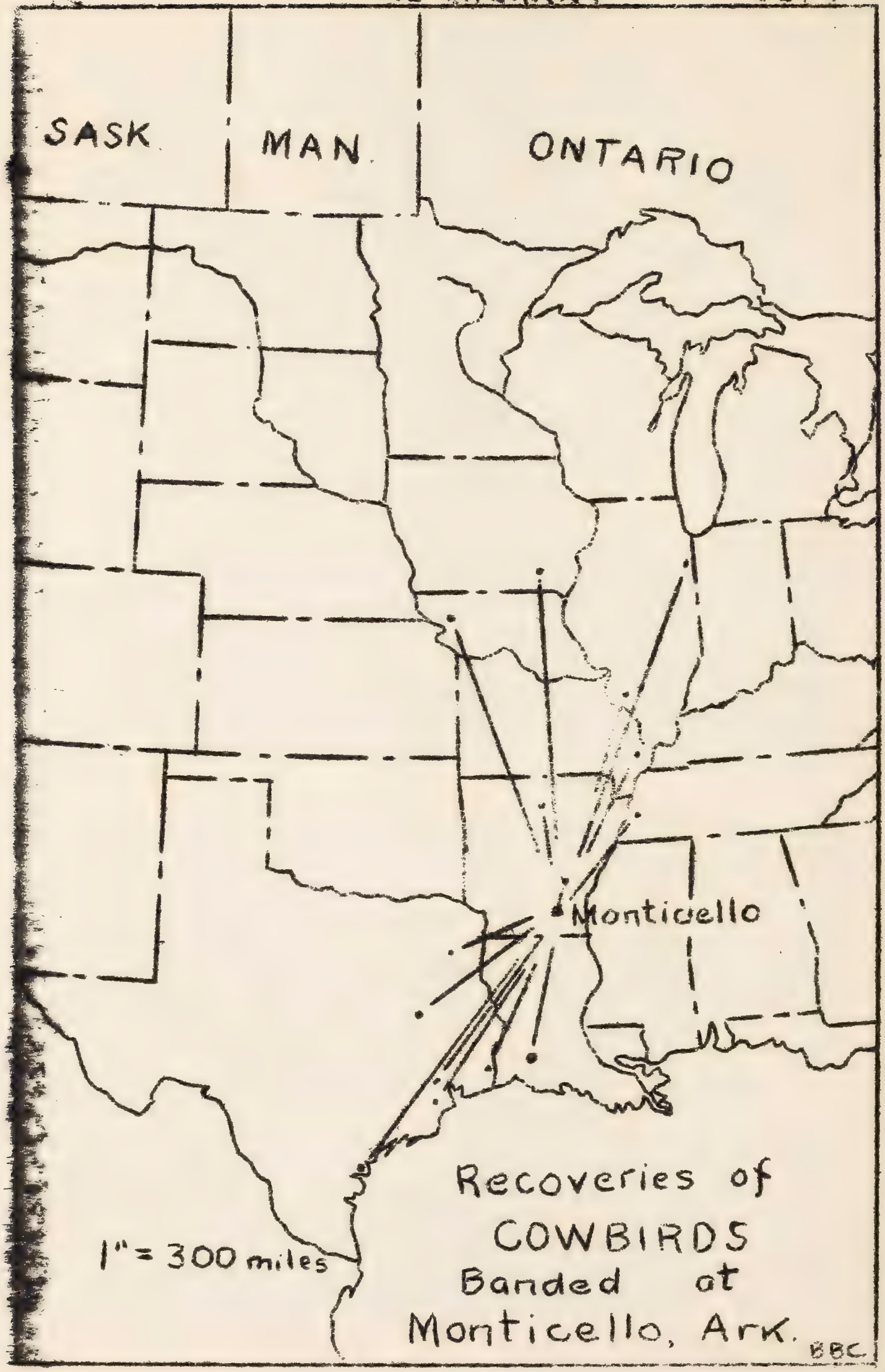
We want to thank our contributors for the promptness in which most copy was sent in for publication in this issue and hope that the good practice will continue despite the present delay in the finished product. We regret the lateness of issue and hope to do much better with the December number. Our copy basket is practically empty so please send in material now and all seasonal notes by December 5. The sooner the better as after the flocks of Chimney Swifts leave here (about October 20) we plan to start work on the next issue in order to have it out of the way before time for Xmas Census lists.

Spare time work can easily be disrupted by illness or other unavoidable causes and in addition we were faced with the choice of seriously curtailing our local Chimney Swift banding or further delay. We felt the banding was more important this season than ever before due to the record-breaking banding being done at Nashville, Clarksville, and below us, at Baton Rouge, La. We hope to have some interesting information to pass on later.——We are greatly indebted to Mr. Ganier for handling all work (including printing contacts) done in connection with the pictures which appear herein. In addition to relieving us of that much additional work, we feel that he was much better qualified to look after that feature.

In the June issue we omitted, thru a typographical oversight, the listing of our good friend, Prof. George Davis, as a director in the T. O. S. from the Murfreesboro Chapter. This chapter, organized in 1935, is composed of some of our most interested and capable members. We are also glad to list Mr. Alfred E. Claggett of Wales as a director from the Blue Grass Chapter. A meeting of the Board of Directors of the T. O. S. has been called for Oct. 16 at Warner Park, Nashville, in connection with the Fall Field Day of the Nashville Chapter.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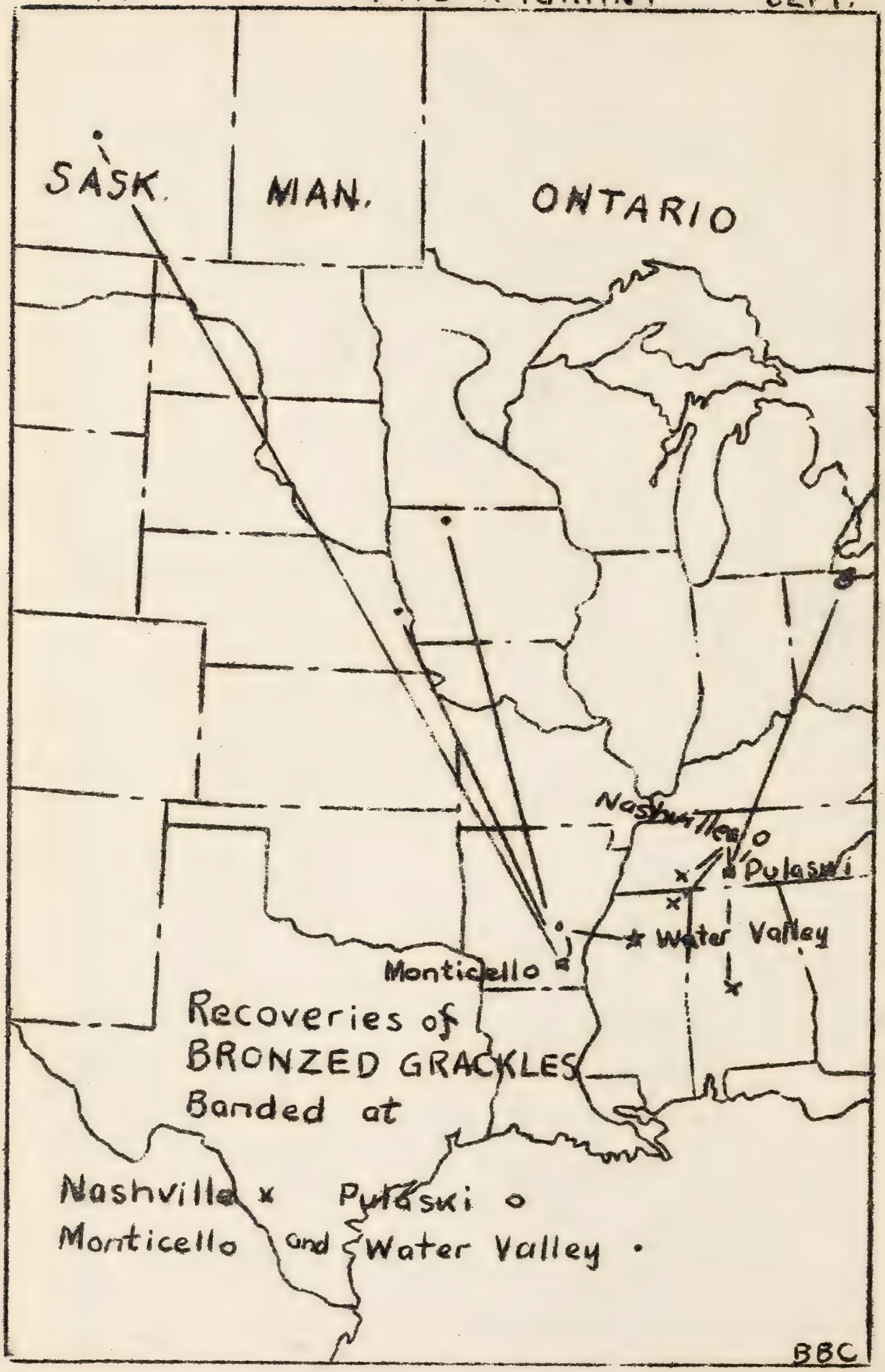
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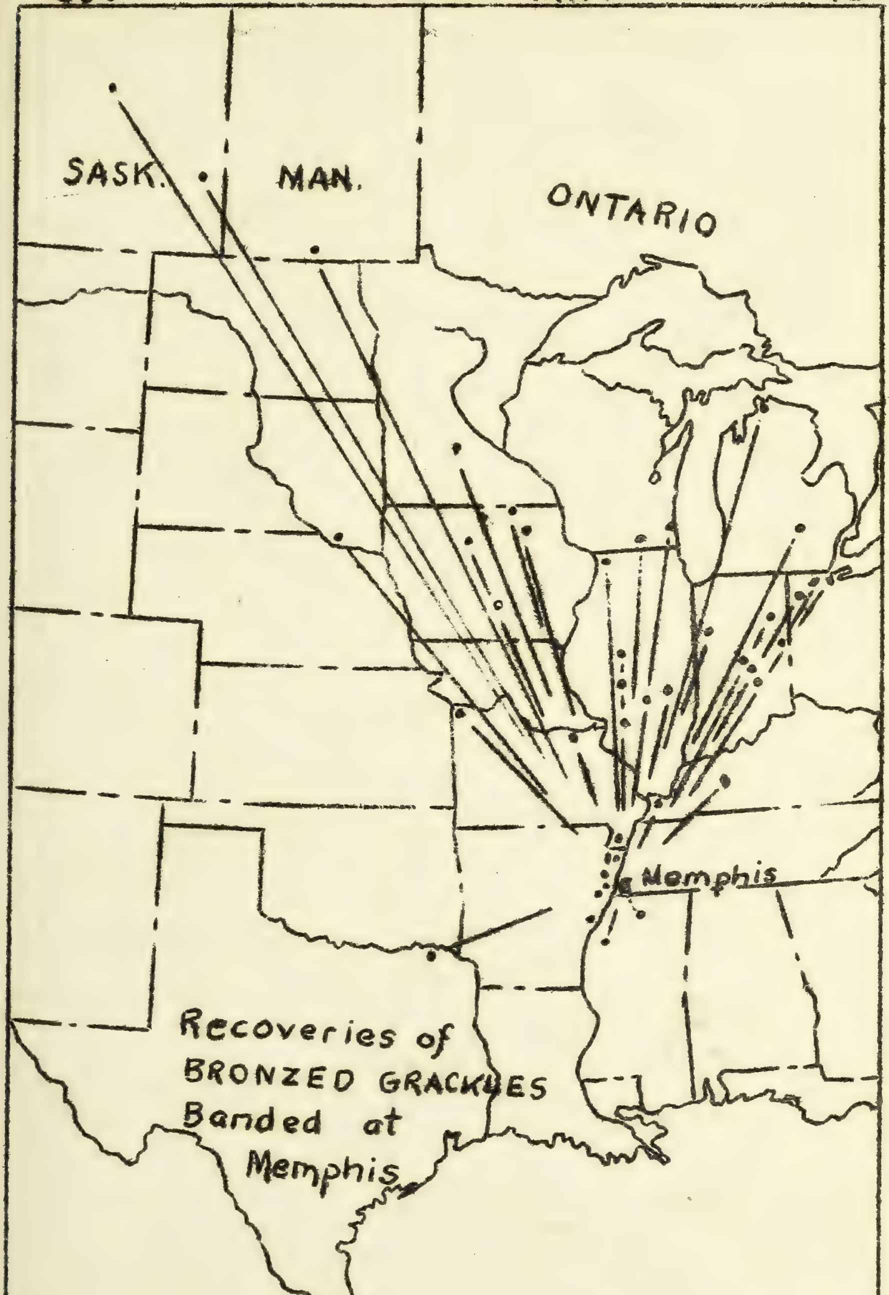
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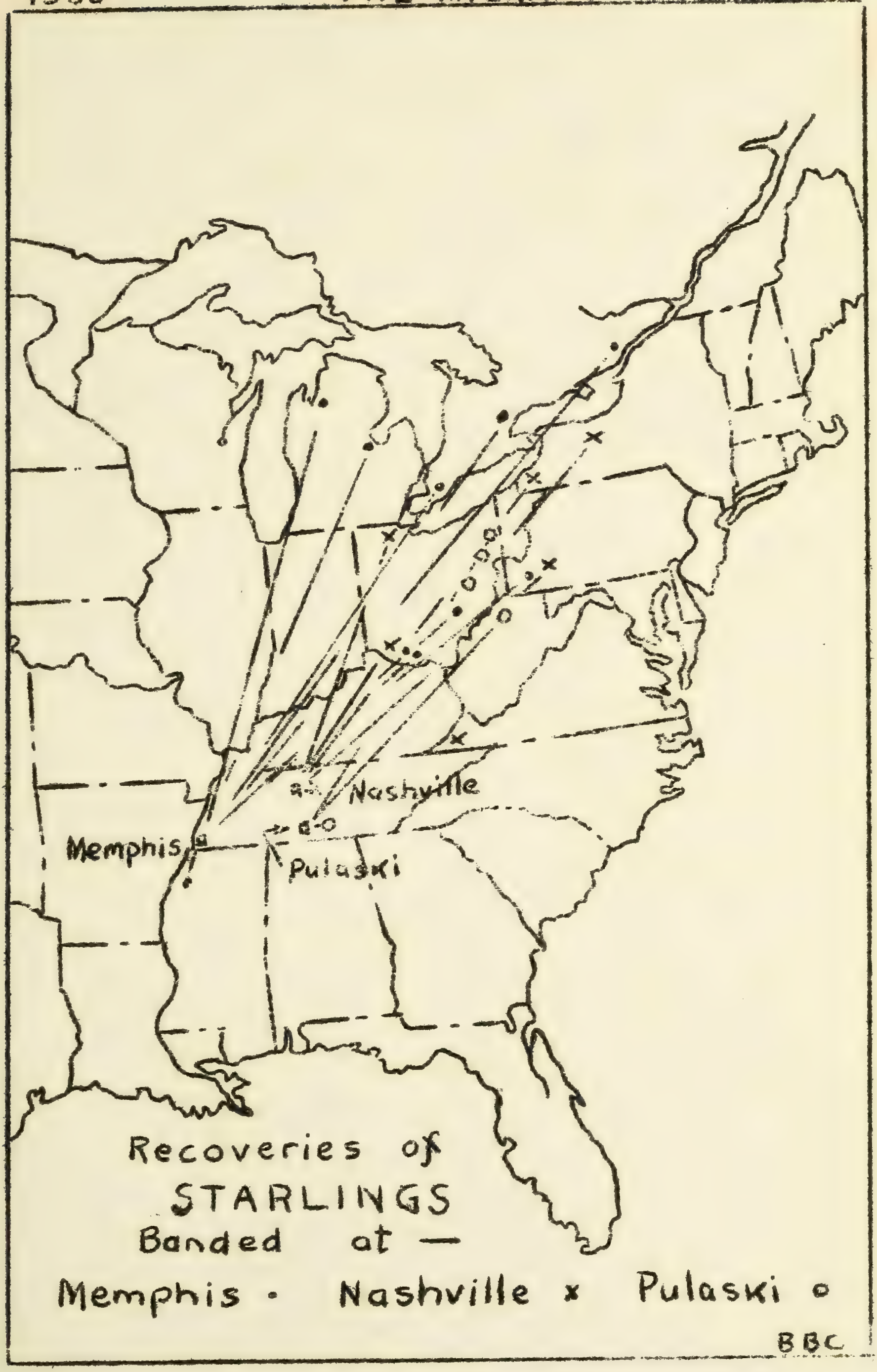

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# THE MIGRANT

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# 1938 SWIFT BANDING AT NASHVILLE AND CLARKSVILLE

BY JOHN B. CALHOUN

The first attempts at Chimney Swift banding in Nashville were made in 1937 when Mrs. Amelia R. Laskey, with the aid of Arthur McMurray, trapped two very small flocks. They banded 47 on Aug. 28, 1937, at the Southland Body Works, and 148 on October 2, 1937, at the Meridian Street Methodist Church. The trap used at that time was too bulky to be conveniently handled with the result that quite a few Swifts escaped. A bird banded at Kingston, Ontario, on May 16, 1936, was taken in the first group.

This work was resumed in 1938, being carried on by myself from August 23 to September 7, and by Mrs. Laskey from September 10 to 27, inclusive. The trap used this year was of the pentahedral type developed by J. C. Dickinson, Jr. and myself at the University of Virginia. It was of the general type used and described elsewhere by Green, Coffey, and Peters. The metal funnel was flattened on the outside so as to reduce size and weight and to place the weight as near to the chimney as possible. The top sloped gradually to the back so that there was no back side. We will be glad to give further details of the trap, cage, and trapping technique to anyone interested. Valuable assistance was given by Arthur and Carl McMurray, Leo Rippy, William Simpson, Conrad Jamison, John Pritchett, Harry Monk, and several others. To these and to the people who allowed the work on the various buildings, appreciation is here expressed.

Swift banding at Clarksville, Tenn. was carried out as a project of the Clarksville chapter of the T. O. S., under the permit of Mrs. John Y. Hutchison. The trap used was also of the pentahedral type. Dr. Pickering, Mrs. Hutchison, Mr. Alfred Clebsch, and Alfred Clebsch, Jr. are mainly responsible for the success of this project which, however, could not have been carried out without the cooperation of the whole chapter. 4265 Swifts were banded in Clarksville. If other chapters of the T. O. S., where Swift banding is not already being done, would conduct similiar projects, a proportionately greater amount of facts concerning the movement of Chimney Swifts would result than is now the case.

The first indication of colony formation in 1938 in Nashville was noticed on August 16, when 300 Swifts were seen at the Blakemore Methodist Church. Mr. H. C. Monk reported 800 there on August 20 and 500 at the Centennial Park chimney on August 21. On the evening of August 22 Monk and I made a smudge fire in the Park chimney, which was about 40 feet high, and forced the birds there to go elsewhere. It was completely dark before we could

JAN - 3 1939

force all the Swifts to leave. Despite the heavy smoke several kept dropping into the chimney, only to be forced out in a few moments by the smoke. Most of the birds from this roost must have gone to the nearby Blakemore chimney since Leo Rippy and Alfred Clebsch, Jr. reported many stragglers arrived there after the main body had already entered.

Most of the chimneys at which banding was carried on were twenty feet or less in height above the roof, so that the usual method of piping the Swifts down into the gathering cage could be employed. On three chimneys which extended over thirty feet above the roof another technique was used which made the trapping of Swifts in high chimneys relatively simple. After placing an extension ladder against the chimney the trap was pulled up with a rope and set in place. Then the gathering cage was likewise raised until the funnel of the trap extended into the top of the gathering cage. As soon as the gathering cage was full the flow of Swifts was cut off and the cage lowered to the roof where banding operations could be carried out with relative ease.

In all our operations we forced the birds out of the chimneys by lowering a large tin can containing rocks into the chimney, and rattling it vigorously just below the birds. In this way we had little difficulty in scaring them out, even when we had to stop the flow of birds several times during the banding operations.

Two distinct methods of entering a chimney to roost were noticed. The first of these was the normal method of circling clockwise or counterclockwise until the entire flock had assembled, after which time the whole flock would pour into the chimney. On the evening of August 30 another method was observed. At 6:20 P.M. while it was quite light, I arrived at Father Ryan High School where a flock of 300 or 400 had already gathered and were flying erratically about the chimney; some birds going in all the time. The number of birds outside the chimney nevertheless remained constant, due to new recruits coming in continuously from all directions, in flocks of 12 to 100 flying low and fast. This went on for fifteen minutes, during which time at least 2500 Swifts entered the chimney. This process must have been going on for some time before my arrival since we removed 4467 birds from the chimney the next day. This same method of entering was also observed once at Warner School.

## FOREIGN SWIFTS

From Tables 3 and 4 it may be seen that 37 foreign birds were captured in Nashville and 7 in Clarksville, excluding in each case those flying between the two cities. With the exception of the three Swifts banded by J. C. Dickinson, Jr. and myself at Charlottesville, Virginia, all foreign recoveries were from west of the Appalachian Mountains. Ten of the Swifts which were banded north of Tennessee were caught in the same season that they were banded. Of these, No. 39-111991, banded by Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Frei at Glasgow, Ky., is of particular interest because it was recovered by Mrs. Laskey the morning after it was banded. This indicated it had flown the 85 miles from Glasgow to Nashville in one day as it had been released at 5:30 A.M., September 22, and had entered the Nashville chimney to roost by 6:30 P.M. the same day, the time at which the chimney was covered.

Another class of foreign captures that were of particular interest were those that had been banded this same season south of our stations, indicating a definite northward movement. Three Swifts banded at Memphis on Sept. 5 were trapped, two at Clarksville and one at Nashville. Outstanding, though, was a bird banded Sept. 27 at Baton Rouge, La. by Mr. George H. Lowery, Jr., which was caught five days afterwards at Clarksville, 460 miles north-northeast. This is an average of about 100 miles a day. The most unusual of these five records was perhaps that of a Swift banded at Clarksville on Sept. 11 which wandered east-northeast 480 miles and was recovered by us at Charlottesville, Va. on Oct. 1. Thus for the first time we have records (infrequent but indicative) that show how extensive the random flying of this species during its leisurely fall migration can be. This might be expected of birds with the power of flight that the Swifts have.

## RETURNS

Of the 195 Swifts banded by Mrs. Laskey in 1937 fifteen individuals were retaken this year, two of which repeated. Five were of the 47 banded Aug. 28, 1937, and ten of the 148 banded Oct. 2, 1937; seven of the latter were taken during August of this year. One of the first mentioned five was taken Aug. 27, 1938, in the same chimney from which it was banded.

## REPEATS AND INTER-CITY RECORDS

Of prime importance in the banding at Nashville and Clarksville is the great number of 'repeats' which showed local movement and the large number of inter-city recoveries. An even 50 Swifts banded in Nashville were trapped later in Clarksville and 13 Clarksville Swifts were taken in Nashville. We might say 14 of the latter, technically, as 39-65781, banded originally in Nashville on Aug. 27, was recovered in Clarksville on Sept. 11, and again in Nashville on Sept. 15. At Clarksville there were 183 'repeat' records for 182 Swifts repeating,—that is, one bird repeated twice. At Nashville 1396 Swifts repeated, 63 of them two times and 8 of them three times, for a total of 1475 repeat records. This includes 5 foreign Swifts, three of which repeated twice and 2 of our local returns from 1937 which repeated. All repeats but two were recorded from different stations than that at which they were originally trapped. In Tables 1 and 2* we have listed complete data on inter-station and inter-city movements; the relative location of all Nashville stations is shown on an insert. From this tabulation it is evident that there is no flock unity. In the evenings the Swifts evidently stop at the first convenient roosting place, depending on where their wanderings in search of food have taken them. Thus in any flock the number may remain fairly constant, but its composition may change daily due to local movement rather than to an influx of Swifts from some northern point. It is noticeable that the farther apart two dates of banding are the less likelihood there is of re-trapping any birds from the first flock; nevertheless, a month after our first two banding dates, Aug. 23 and Aug. 27 there were 30 repeats from those flocks among the 896 Swifts caught on Sept. 27 at Ward-Belmont. We see then that although there were a considerable number of Swifts leaving Nashville during August and September, presumably for the most part going southward, there was evidently quite a 'rear-guard' consisting of Swifts which had spread out locally and to neighboring cities. For a more complete account of the movement of Chimney Swifts between cities in a given region see Dr. H. S. Peters' account of his banding in Alabama and Georgia in 1936 (*Bird Banding*, Vol. 8, No. 1, pp. 16-24).

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*These Tables are shown on a chart on a later page.

As we banded more birds the percentage of repeats in each succeeding flock increased gradually until we trapped our largest flock (4467) on Aug. 31. Then the percentage jumped to a maximum of 21.2% in a flock of 1336 taken the next day two miles away (52% of these 'repeats' were from and constituted 3.44% of the big flock of the day before). The percentage was 18.3% on Sept. 5 but afterwards averaged about 12%. The first large flock banded will normally have the largest proportion of Swifts which 'turn-up' again but Table I shows it (in this case the Aug. 23 flock) to be second with 15.4% of its members repeating. The flock with the highest percentage of all birds repeating later (21%) was a small one of 344 banded Aug. 28, the last flock trapped before the big flock of Aug. 31. Thirty-nine or 11.3% of its Swifts were found in the latter as was 7.1% of the large Southland Body Works flock of Aug. 27.

I am indebted to Mrs. Laskey and to Mr. Clebsch for the complete data of their banding in their respective cities, and to Mr. Monk and Mr. Coffey for the preparation of Tables 1 and 2.

**TABLE 3**—SWIFTS BANDED ELSEWHERE (FOREIGN), RECOVERIES AT NASHVILLE.

| *Place* | *Band Number* | *Date Banded* | *Date Recovered* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Charlottesville, Va. | 38-123561 | May 13, 1938 | Sept. 5, 1938 |
| (Dickinson and Calhoun) | 38-174541 | May 15, 1938 | Sept. 7, 1938 |
| | 38-172959 | May 15, 1938 | Sept. 10, 1938 |
| Ithaca, N. Y.<br>(W. W. Middlekauf). | 38-162508 | May 9, 1938 | Aug. 31, 1938 |
| Kingston, Ont. | 34-45351 | May 16, 1936 | Aug. 28, 1938 |
| (Miss Ida Merriman) | 34-45942 | May 24, 1936 | Aug. 23 & 31, & Sept. 5 |
| | 36-73156 | May 16, 1937 | Aug. 31, Sept. 1 |
| | 36-73951 | May 16, 1937 | Sept. 1, 1938 |
| | 36-73690 | May 16, 1937 | Sept. 17, 1938 |
| | 37-90214 | May 15, 1938 | Aug. 31, 1938 |
| | 37-90572 | May 22, 1938 | Sept. 5, 1938 |
| | 37-90971 | May 29, 1938 | Aug. 23, 1938 |
| Blind River, Ont. | 38-145591 | July 23, 1938 | Aug. 27, 1938 |
| (Irvin S. Sturgis) | 38-145944 | July 23, 1938 | Aug. 28 & 31, Sept. 1 |
| | 38-145385 | July 23, 1938 | Aug. 31, 1938 |
| | 38-145476 | July 23, 1938 | Aug. 31, 1938 |
| | 38-146234 | July 23, 1938 | Sept. 15, 1938 |
| Charleston, W. Va. | 34-58192 | Sept. 23, 1937 | Aug. 31, 1938 |
| (I. H. Johnston) | 34-61098 | Not yet recorded | Sept. 5, 1938 |
| Newark, Ohio<br>(L. E. Hicks) | 38-52486 | Sept. 20, 1938 | Sept. 27, 1938 |
| Wheeling, Ill.<br>(L. G. Flentge) | 37-146296 | May 16, 1937 | Aug. 31, 1938 |
| Beloit, Wis. | 38-120763 | May 17, 1937 | Aug. 27, 1938 |
| (Carl Welty) | 38-120314 | May 17, 1937 | Aug. 31, 1938 |

| TABLE 3—*Cont.* | *Band Number* | *Date Banded* | *Date Recovered* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Fairfield, Iowa | L17136 | May 13, 1933 | Aug. 27, 1938 |
| (Carl Welty) | 34-126829 | May 23, 1934 | Aug. 31, 1938 |
| | 35-119609 | Oct. 2, 1936 | Aug. 23, 1938 |
| Lexington, Mo., (Sturgis) | 36-56285 | May 26, 1936 | Sept. 5, 1938 |
| Glasgow, Ky. | 39-111991 | Sept. 22, 1938 | Sept. 23, 1938 |
| (Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Frei) | | | |
| Memphis, Tenn. | 34-93120 | Oct. 9, 1935 | Sept. 7, 1938 |
| (Ben B. Coffey, Jr.) | 36-86991 | Oct. 8, 1936 | Sept. 17, 1938 |
| | 36-88259 | Sept. 16, 1937 | Aug. 31, 1938 |
| | 38-21128 | Sept. 21, 1937 | Aug. 31 & Sept. 1 |
| | 38-21816 | Oct. 4, 1937 | Aug. 23, 1938 |
| | 38-85154 | Sept. 5, 1938 | Sept. 17, 1938 |
| Baton Rouge, La. | 38-114718 | Oct. 15, 1937 | Aug. 27 & 28, |
| (Geo. H. Lowery, Jr.) | | | & Sept. 17 |
| | 38-115722 | Oct. 15, 1937 | Sept. 5, 1938 |
| | 38-115836 | Oct. 15, 1937 | Sept. 5, 1938 |

TABLE 4—FOREIGN RECOVERIES AT CLARKSVILLE.

| *Place* | *Band Number* | *Date Banded* | *Date Recovered* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Beloit, Wis. | 35-118798 | May 16, 1935 | Sept. 11, 1938 |
| (Carl Welty) | | | |
| Quincy, Ill. | 36-149170 | Sept. 16, 1936 | Sept. 11, 1938 |
| (Musselman) | | | |
| Memphis, Tenn. | 38-85253 | Sept. 5, 1938 | Sept. 11, 1938 |
| (Ben B. Coffey, Jr.) | 38-85077 | Sept. 5 1938 | Sept. 24, 1938 |
| Baton Rouge, La. | 38-115643 | Oct. 15, 1937 | Sept. 24, 1938 |
| (Geo. H. Lowery, Jr.) | 39-36560 | Sept. 27, 1938 | Oct. 2, 1938 |

Data for one other swift has not yet been ascertained

TABLE 5—NASHVILLE-CLARKSVILLE SWIFTS TRAPPED ELSEWHERE THIS FALL, 1938

| | *Band Number* | *Date Banded* | *Date Recovered* | *Place of Recovery* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| NASHVILLE | 38-175721 | Aug. 23 | Sept. 27 | Baton Rouge, La. |
| | 38-176006 | Aug. 23 | Sept. 18 | Glasgow, Ky. |
| | 39-66001 | Aug. 27 | Oct. 8 | Baton Rouge, La. |
| | 39-67114 | Aug. 27 | Oct. 1 | Baton Rouge, La. |
| | 39-67177 | Aug. 27 | Oct. 1 | Baton Rouge, La. |
| | 39-68405 | Aug. 31 | Sept. 27 | Baton Rouge, La. |
| | 39-68788 | Aug. 31 | Sept. 18 | Glasgow, Ky. |
| | 39-68866 | Aug. 31 | Sept. 27 | Baton Rouge, La. |
| | 39-69028 | Aug. 31 | Sept. 21 | Memphis, Tenn. |
| | 39-69861 | Aug. 31 | Sept. 21 | Memphis, Tenn. |
| | 39-70152 | Aug. 31 | Sept. 21 | Memphis, Tenn. |
| | 39-71932 | Sept. 1 | Sept. 27 | Baton Rouge, La. |
| | 39-72751 | Sept. 1 | Sept. 18 | Glasgow, Ky. |
| | 39-74383 | Sept. 7 | Sept. 21 | Memphis, Tenn. |
| | 39-83313 | Sept. 7 | Oct. 1 | Baton Rouge, La. |
| | 39 32268 | Sept. 10 | Oct. 1 | Baton Rouge, La. |
| | 39-32423 | Sept. 10 | Oct. 1 | Baton Rouge, La. |
| | 39-32712 | Sept. 17 | Oct. 8. | Baton Rouge, La. |
| | 39-33834 | Sept. 17 | 9/20 to 10/5 | Madisonville, Ky. |
| CLARKSVILLE | 39-75633 | Sept. 11 | Sept. 21 | Memphis, Tenn. |
| | 39-76104 | Sept. 11 | Oct. 8 | Baton Rouge, La. |
| | 39-76771 | Sept. 11 | Sept. 18 | Glasgow, Ky. |
| | 39-77737 | Sept. 11 | Between | Madisonville, Ky. |
| | 39-77822 | Sept. 24 | Sept. 20 | Madisonville, Ky. |
| | 39-77854 | Sept. 24 | & Oct. 5 | Madisonville, Ky. |

MILLER SCHOOL OF BIOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF VA., CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA.
DEC. 5, 1938.

# SWIFT BANDING IN THE SOUTH

By BEN B. COFFEY, JR.

Bird banding stations in the South are all too few, not only from the standpoint of proper regional representation but from that of their greater potential value. Many species of birds which spend the summer in the North where a preponderance of banding stations are located, spend the winter in the South. In encouraging the banding of Chimney Swifts here we have an additional reason in the increased opportunity afforded us each fall to handle larger number of Swifts than possible in the North. The migrating or wandering flocks increase in numbers as they move southward and a few flocks may be found which number 5,000 to 6,000 birds. The largest flock that has been banded (as far as we can ascertain) was one of 6,025 at Atlanta, Ga., Oct. 11, 1936, by Dr. Harold S. Peters. Prof. Wyman R. Green trapped one of 7,000 birds at Chattanooga on Sept. 21, 1929, of which 1500 were banded and the others examined for old bands.

In the fall of 1925 and of 1926, Mr. H. L. Stoddard banded a total of about 6,000 Swifts at Thomasville, Ga., Cairo, Ga., and Tallahassee, Fla. This number includes some banded in 1924 and in the spring of 1926. At Chattanooga Prof. Green trapped once in the fall of 1928 and again in 1929 and 1930. Due to a shortage of bands the first two years, about 9,000 birds were released unbanded, but in 1930 about 14,000 were banded for an approximate total of 17,500 Swifts. The writer trapped a large flock at Memphis in 1932 and in 1933 but only had 500 bands each time; the 1933 flock numbered about 5,000. Since then we have tried to band as many as we could but without outstanding success. This year, however, we banded our largest flock, one of 3585. Meanwhile in 1936, Dr. Harold S. Peters of the Biological Survey banded 15,478 Swifts in the Auburn, Ala. area and 6,025 at Atlanta, Ga., for a total of 21,503—the record for one group of workers. At Auburn 6500 other Swifts were released unbanded due to a shortage of bands. In 1937 Dr. Peters returned and banded one flock of 1950 at Opelika, Ala. We hope that others will continue in that area.

That fall also, Mr. George H. Lowery, Jr. began trapping Swifts at Baton Rouge, La., a very strategic location in relation to nearly all other banders. He banded 4500 in 1937; altho absent from the city several weeks in 1938, he banded 11,499 in four trappings (including 4,699 on Sept. 27).

In Tennessee this last season 27,429 Swifts were banded. Nashville set the pace with 15,876, Mrs. Laskey's enterprising group of assistants being led by our aggressive and enthusiastic fellow member, John B. Calhoun, who must have been half fireman and half monkey to trap on the chimneys that he did. 13,033 Swifts were banded before John left for University, Va. and the good work was kept going by Mrs. Laskey until the Swifts disappeared. 4,219 was the largest flock banded. Our chapter in nearby Clarksville banded 4,265 in their first season which is more than for any of our six previous years here in Memphis. Their work in connection with Mrs. Laskey's was further valuable in that some determination could be made of the movements of Swifts between Nashville and Clarksville. The Nashville total alone is a few more than was banded in the Auburn area in 1936. An area of comparable size would include both Nashville and Clarksville and the total for same would be 20,141. At Memphis we banded 7,288 Swifts, our best record.

Swift banding was also undertaken at two nearby points in Kentucky this fall and pertinent data has been kindly supplied by the banders. Mr. and Mrs. F. Everett Frei banded a total of 888 Swifts at Glasgow on Sept. 18 and Sept. 22 and Mr. Raymond J. Fleetwood banded 2212 at Madisonville and adjacent Morton's Gap, Sept. 20 to Oct. 5, inclusive. Glasgow is 85 miles northeast of Nashville and Madisonville is 60 miles north of Clarksville. Several of the Nashville and Clarksville Swifts were picked up at each place and we have taken the liberty of adding Table 5 to Mr. Calhoun's article in order to show these and other recoveries of the Middle Tennessee birds.

Attention should be called here to the extended northeastward wanderings of some Swifts in the fall as described in Mr. Calhoun's article. A second unaccountable phenomena, to the writer, is the scarcity of records between Memphis and Baton Rouge. In 1937 Mr. Lowery took 6 Memphis Swifts (including 3 out of 2373 banded that year) from about 4500 birds. In 1938 he took only 2 (also from those 2373) altho he handled about 11,600 Swifts. Yet 7488 Memphis birds were banded or recorded here this fall—5600 before any trapping was done at Baton Rouge. And at Memphis we only recovered two of his 1937 birds. Evidently only Swift banding stations southwest of Memphis can complete the picture. In seven years only two of our Swifts have been reported elsewhere southwest or south of Memphis.

### MAP OF STATION TO STATION MOVEMENTS

We have attempted to show graphically the number of Swifts recovered between the Tennessee stations and all other stations which have trapped our birds and whose birds have been picked up here. Recovery records for the two nearby Kentucky points were also plotted. So that some idea of the number banded at each station could be taken into consideration, that was also shown graphically for stations for which data had been kindly supplied us by the banding cooperators. The number used is the total for 1935 to 1938, inclusive, as we thought the residue of older banded birds insufficient to have an appreciable bearing. Exceptions are: Fairfield, Iowa, 1933-34, after which Prof. Welty removed to Beloit, Wis.; Clayton, Ill., 1928 to 1934, designation arbitrary; Chattanooga, Tenn., merely indicated because of the one recovery made at Memphis (1934),—Prof. Green removed after banding about 17,500 Swifts in 1928-30. This recovery, the taking of a Memphis bird at Opelika, Ala. (1936), and that of an Atlanta bird at Glasgow, Ky. this fall, are apparently the exceptions to the generally indicated movements. Columbus, Ohio, Ashland, Ky., and Milledgeville, Ga., are shown but no movements between these points and the five 'home' stations have yet been recorded. Charlottesville, Va., is designated more briefly as University.

Some consideration was given to expressing recoveries as a mathematical ratio or per cent based on the number of recoveries, the number of birds banded at one point and the number examined at the other point. However there were so many variable factors involved and modifications necessary for every case, affecting each ratio, that we not only abandoned the idea but eliminated from this article an elementary discussion of these factors as too complicated. Consequently the simple method was used and the actual total number of recoveries indicated. Where there is more than one recovery, the number is given. An example of figuring the total is given: 6 Memphis birds at Baton Rouge in 1937, 2 in 1938, 2 Baton Rouge birds at Memphis in 1938; total, Baton Rouge-Memphis, 10. Memphis recoveries as shown date back to the first few in 1933 and 1934; those for the other four points are shown in Calhoun's Tables 3 to 5 inclusive, augmented by a Kingston, Ontario recovery at Nashville in 1937.

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MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE. December, 1938

# THE THIRD YEAR OF THE BLUEBIRD PROJECT

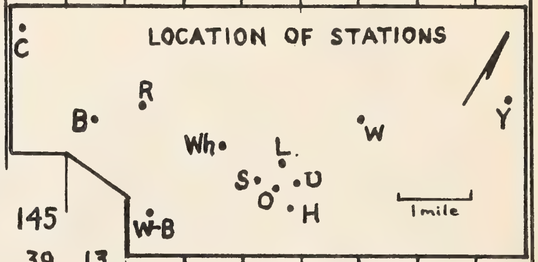
BY AMELIA R. LASKEY

During the 1938 season, with the excellent help of William Simpson, it has been my privilege to continue with the Bluebird nestbox project in Percy Warner Park, described by Mr. E. D. Schreiber in *The Migrant* of March, 1938. Beginning February 23rd, forty-five trips were made to examine the boxes, twenty of them alone and the remainder with William and a few other bird students, including Mr. Schreiber. Three or four hours were spent in the field on most of the trips because this year extraordinary efforts were made to capture the brooding females in the boxes in each of the nesting periods. With the exercise of much patience and strategy, including many trips during hard rains, which experience taught us was the only time certain individuals could be trapped, a large percentage was banded or trapped with bands for identification. No desertions, broken eggs, or ill effects of any kind were caused by the brief handling given the birds.

The total number of fledglings that left the nest successfully this year, from the 37 boxes now placed in the park, exceeded the number fledged from the 27 original boxes during 1936 and 1937 combined. From the total of 460 eggs laid in 1938, an average of 4.42 for the 104 sets, 264 nestlings or 58.1 percent were successfully fledged. The early nests were most successful with 72.3 percent of the eggs laid developing to the fledgling stage. Results for the second period figured 55.2 percent and for the third period, still lower, 42.6 percent. Two nesting attempts were made in a fourth period but both failed.

# TABLE 1 NASHVILLE

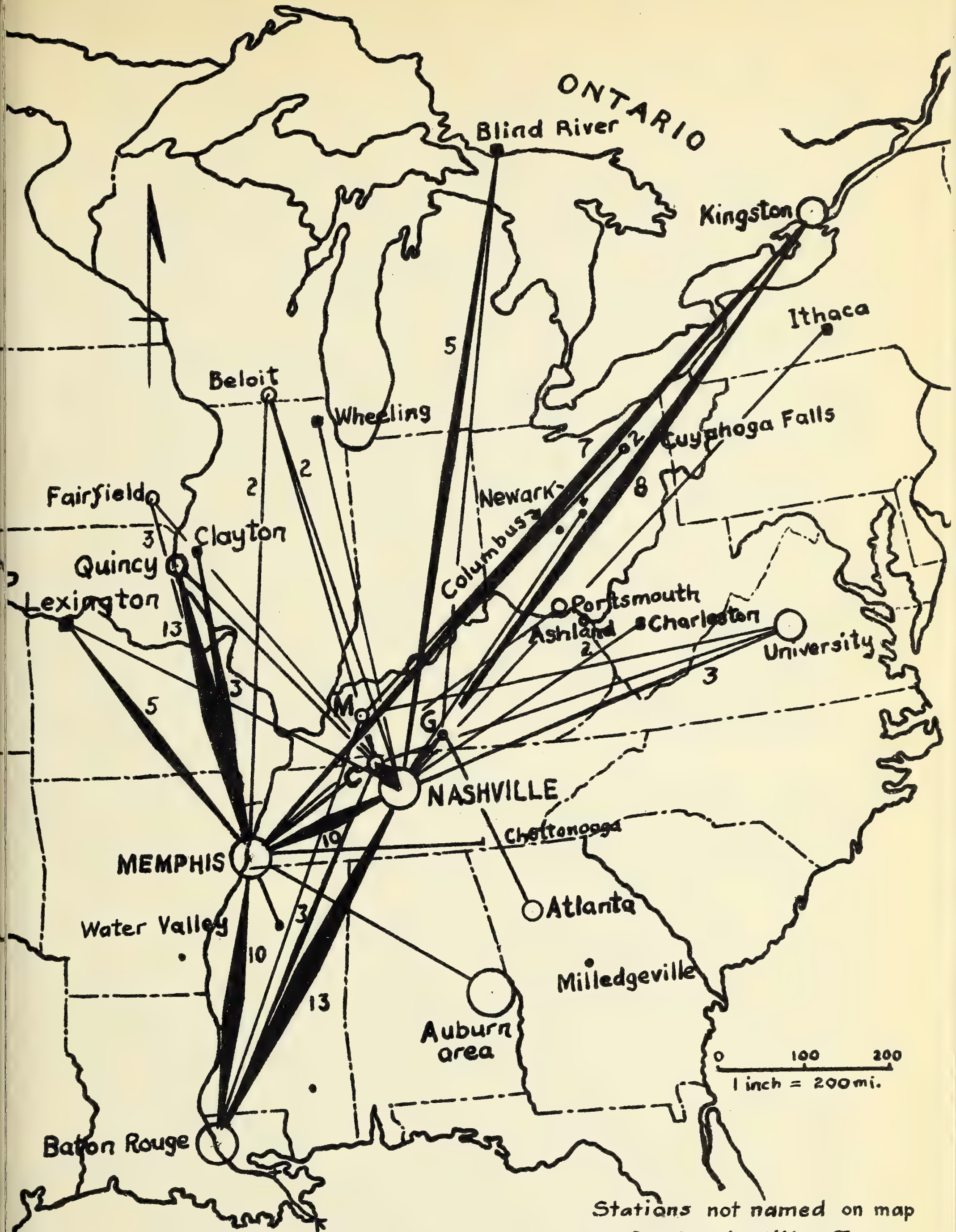
## ANALYSIS OF FLOCKS


LOCATION OF STATIONS

| 'FOREIGN' SWIFTS | Repeats Of Same | CLARKSVILLE SWIFTS | LOCAL (37) RETURNS | Repeats Of Same | Date | Location | No. Banded | Aug. 23 | Aug. S 27 | Aug. O 27 | Aug. 28 | Aug. 31 | Sept. 1 | Sept. 4 | Sept. 5 | Sept. 7 | Sept. 10 | Sept. 15 | Sept. 17 | Sept. 23 | % Repeats In Each Flock |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | – | – | 1 | – | Aug. 23 | **B**lakemore Church | 2120 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3 | – | – | 5 | – | 27 | **S**outhland Body Works | 2018 | 87 | | | | | | | | | | | | | 4.1 |
| 1 | – | – | | – | 27 | **O**sborn Home | 355 | 19 | | | | | | | | | | | | | 5.1 |
| 2 | 1 | – | 1 | – | 28 | **L**itterer Labor't'y | 314 | 20 | 4 | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | 7.6 |
| 11 | 2 | – | 4 | 1 | 31 | Father **R**yan Hi Sch'l | 4219 | 31 | 143 | 17 | 39 | | | | | | | | | | 5.2 |
| 1 | 3 | – | – | – | Sept. 1 | **C**harlotte Ave. Church of Christ | 1051 | 51 | 59 | 7 | 19 | 145 | | | | | | | | | 21.2 |
| – | – | – | 1 | – | 4 | **L** | 307 | 12 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 39 | 13 | | | | | | | | 18.3 |
| 6 | 1 | – | 1 | – | 5 | **W**arner School | 1700 | 56 | 33 | 2 | 2 | 98 | 24 | 8 | | | | | | | 11.6 |
| 2 | – | – | – | – | 7 | **Wh**ite Truck Co. | 949 | 28 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 37 | 16 | 4 | 30 | | | | | | 11.4 |
| 1 | – | | 1 | 1 | 10 | **H**ubbard Hospital | 474 | 8 | 14 | 6 | 1 | 37 | 5 | – | 10 | 3 | | | | | 15.1 |
| 1 | – | 3<br>◆1 | – | – | 15 | **U**niversity & Carroll | 182 | 2 | 1 | – | – | 13 | – | – | 1 | – | 2 | | | | 9.3 |
| 3 | 1 | 6 | – | – | 17 | Baile**Y** School | 1294 | 22 | 20 | | 5 | 58 | 14 | 3 | 35 | 16 | 4 | 4 | | | 12.2 |
| 1 | – | – | – | – | 23 | **H** | 110 | 3 | 2 | 2 | – | 3 | – | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | – | | | 12.6 |
| 1 | – | 4 | 1 | – | 27 | **W**ard-**B**elmont Coll. | 783 | 14 | 14 | 2 | 1 | 28 | 10 | 2 | 18 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 11.9 |
| 37 | 8 | 13 | 15 | 2 | TOTALS | No. of Repeat Records | 15876 | 353 | 294 | 41 | 73 | 458 | 82 | 19 | 96 | 25 | 10 | 5 | 7 | 2 | 1475 |
| – | 5 | – | – | 2 | | No. of Swifts Repeating | | 327 | 272 | 39 | 66 | 444 | 79 | | 94 | | | | | | 1396 |
| ◆ = 39-65781 See text | | | | | Per Cent of Swifts Repeating | | | 15.4 | 13.4 | 11.0 | 21.0 | 10.5 | 7.5 | 6.2 | 5.5 | 2.6 | 2.1 | 2.7 | .5 | .2 | 8.8% |

# TABLE 2 – CLARKSVILLE

| 'FOREIGN' | | LOCAL REPEATS From Sept. 11 | LOCAL REPEATS From Sept. 24 | Date | Location | No. Banded | NASHVILLE SWIFTS OF ABOVE DATES RECOVERED AT CLARKSVILLE | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | Aug. 23 | Aug. S 27 | Aug. O 27 | Aug. 28 | Aug. 31 | Sept. 1 | Sept. 4 | Sept. 5 | Sept. 7 | Sept. 10 | Sept. 15 | Sept. 17 | Sept. 23 | % |
| 3 | | | | Sep. 11 | C. High School | 2606 | 6 | 9 | 1 | 1 | 12 | 3 | | | | | | | | = 1.2% |
| 2 | | 142 | – | 24 | Acme Shoe Fcty. | 1350 | 3 | 1 | – | – | 3 | 2 | – | 2 | 2 | | | | | .96 |
| 2 | | 20 | 21 | Oct. 2 | Grizzard Groc. | 309 | – | – | – | – | 2 | – | – | 1 | 1 | – | – | 1 | | 1.6 |
| 7 | – | 162 | 21 | TOTALS | | 4265 | 9 | 10 | 1 | 1 | 17 | 5 | | 3 | 3 | | | 1 | | = 1.17% |


ONTARIO
Blind River
Kingston
Ithaca
Beloit
Wheeling
Cuyahoga Falls
Fairfield
Newark
Clayton
Columbus
Quincy
Lexington
Portsmouth
Ashland
Charleston
University
M
G
C
NASHVILLE
Chattanooga
MEMPHIS
Atlanta
Water Valley
Milledgeville
Auburn area
Baton Rouge
0 100 200
1 inch = 200mi.
5
2
2
7
8
3
13
3
5
2
3
10
10
3
13
Stations not named on map
C = Clarksville, Tenn.
M = Madisonville, Ky.
G = Glasgow, Ky.

# SWIFT RECOVERIES

## BETWEEN BANDING STATIONS

Number of Records Shown to Scale

umber Banded 1935-38 Shown to Scale

1,000 to 17,000 • less than 1,000 ■ No Data

B.C.

From the 71 captures of brooding females in the 37 boxes, ample data was obtained to prove these birds have a strong attachment to their chosen nest boxes and that faithfulness to these nest sites is predominant. During 1936 and 1937, only 18 brooding females were banded. In 1938, it was gratifying to recapture eight of those birds in nest boxes and six of them in the same boxes they used last year! In addition there were three brooding females trapped on the nest that had been banded as nestlings in the previous years. This year we trapped 27 unbanded brooding females. Numbered aluminum bands were attached to the right tarsus of each so that at subsequent nesting periods it would be possible to learn whether there had been any shifting among the breeding Bluebird population. Thus, with the previously mentioned returns from other years, we had a total of 38 brooding birds tagged for identification. In the 33 repeat records of these females can be found ample proof that faithfulness to the chosen box was the rule throughout the three nesting periods of the season.

Although we were not successful in capturing each female in every nesting period, there are 19 records of females rearing two and three broods in the same box this season. In a few cases different females were found for the later nests. However, in the five boxes in which this situation occurred, the history of four showed that fatalities or interferences by enemies were responsible. In one case the previous occupant had been killed by a cat, in another she was found injured and died, in a third case there were depredations by a chicken snake, and in a fourth, the nest was repeatedly robbed by unknown predators.

The bird using Box 17 furnished a remarkable example of constancy, for in spite of continuous raids by a Starling, she occupied the box from early March to mid-July, making five unsuccessful attempts to raise a brood. The Starling was able to enter the box and even laid an egg among those of the Bluebird.

No data is available to show the relative constancy of the males of this group because no male was ever found brooding and it was not possible to trap them as they went into the box to feed the young, without specially equipped boxes. However, with binoculars it was possible occasionally, to see one with a band on his left tarsus, which indicated he had been banded previously as a nestling.

Although this study has yielded considerable more interesting data, this summary also gives some idea of the eagerness of Bluebirds to use boxes placed for them. It is distressing to find that almost every tin newspaper box and mail box along our suburban and country roads has been used by Bluebirds in a futile attempt at nesting. Almost any type of box placed for them has been immediately taken by these lovely bits of blue that need only a sheltered cavity in an open situation for a nest site. As our wood fence posts are gradually replaced with steel and trees with hollow stubs fall victim to the axe, bird lovers thruout the state should make every effort to provide the proper substitute nesting and roosting facilities for the Bluebirds. An actual increase in their numbers will result.

NASHVILLE, TENN., December, 1938.

# BUILD A BLUEBIRD HOUSE

By Merrill S. Carter

When we consider how successful the Bluebird project in Percy Warner Park has been we would like to encourage other groups throughout the State to come to the aid of this most useful bird and conduct similar projects. When the average citizen puts up a bird house on his property he may be doing more harm than good, hence this article. Likewise, this mid-winter season is the best time to place houses, so that they may weather and lose all human odors, and also so that the birds may find them early and become acquainted with their future nesting sites.

All bird houses might well be made of cypress, for this wood is easy to work, does not need to be painted, will weather and season without warping and splitting, and will last indefinitely. Other woods may be used but it is advisable never to use tin, clay or other substances that conduct heat. Rustic houses are of great value, as no doubt some birds consider the home made of a hollow limb as a natural nesting site, but the Bluebird seems to be in such great need of a suitable place to lay its eggs, that it will build in mail boxes and tin cans.

The design need not be elaborate. Use wood that is ¾ of an inch thick and you can construct your box without cutting a single mitre, angle or difficult joint. Make the box about 5 or 6 inches square on the inside, and about twelve inches high. Place the entrance about ten inches above the floor. Let this opening be 2 inches in diameter. An expansion bit will save time here. Smaller entrances are recommended by some, but we have found this size as satisfactory. The English Sparrow will enter any box that the Bluebird can, so here you must use some other way of discouraging this thief. The top of the box must be removable, even though you expect to keep no data, for then you can remove the inevitable Sparrow nest that is built in most boxes placed near homes. By catching the Sparrow hen, destroying the nest and eggs, you can usually persuade this pest that your box is not a suitable place for it. A removable top will permit observations, banding and cleaning. The nest may be taken out and the cavity cleaned on the very day that the first brood leaves. The mother bird will usually return for a second nesting within a week. The top may be secured with hooks and screw eyes, with hinges made of metal or leather, or with pins made of bent nails. First, you must bore a hole with a gimlet slightly larger than the shank of the nail. A portion of the top needs to extend down into the cavity when this "key" is used to permit the nail to go through the side into it. We have found that the top can even be horizontal as this will save the difficult angle saw cut. Let it extend over the sides and cover with tarpaper to turn the water.

The location of a Bluebird box is very important. By all means place it in the open away from tree limbs and bushes and at a height of from three to ten feet, preferably three to five feet. The lower the height the more accessible it will be for observations inside and for cleaning. If a fence post is not available, a pole should be used. In locating it near a public thoroughfare remember that thoughtless persons and harmful animals might molest the box and thus cause the Bluebirds to desert their eggs. In open country boxes may be placed one to each acre of land and nearly all will be used. Do not put too close together as only one pair of birds will occupy a given territory.

We hope that Bluebird house building and placing projects or contests can be arranged by our chapters and members, working through school classes, science groups, Boy Scouts, 4-H Clubs and others.

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE, December 15, 1938.

# THE RELATIVE ABUNDANCE OF WINTER BIRDS AT NASHVILLE

BY ALBERT F. GANIER

For more than thirty-five years now, the magazine *Bird-Lore* has been publishing annually the results of the nation-wide Christmas bird census. This census was inaugurated to sustain interest in work afield at a season when the weather was not inviting, and, to gather information on the whereabouts and distribution of our birds during mid-winter. It was popular from the very start and its cooperators have carried on year after year or else passed the work on to younger observers. A good natured spirit of rivalry has prevailed and has spurred individuals and groups to do far more comprehensive search than prevailed in the earlier years. As years go on, a considerable mass of such information accumulates and becomes available for study. A study of these lists, whether for a locality, a region or for the nation, represents a field as yet but lightly tapped but one which can yield many interesting results.

A problem of primary interest, for any given locality, is the determination of the most abundant winter birds and the order of their abundance. Due to annual fluctuations, reasonably accurate results can only be deduced by taking the *averages*, thru a number of years. It is the purpose of this paper to present some methods of tabulating these averages and to encourage others to similarly work out the results for their localities.

Christmas census lists have been made at Nashville since 1914—for 24 years—and by observers who respond year after year and thus make the work reasonably uniform. Of our first seven census lists, five were made by the writer without assistance. Since that time, however, fellow observers have increased in number until during the past seven years, there has been an average of fifteen afield. Field glasses of the binocular type are used and care is taken to correctly estimate the numbers where species are in flocks. As many of us as possible put in the entire day and a few work their localities beforehand so as to locate birds not regularly found. Between 40 and 45 species will represent a good day's record for one party of from two to four observers but when six to eight parties gather at the end of the day to compile results, the composite list usually runs between 62 and 66 species. The number of individuals of each species are set down upon printed listing cards, all thru the day as the birds are seen, and the totals, finally set down upon the composite list, give the totals seen on the day's census. From these composite lists the averages presented on the two charts on other pages are compiled.

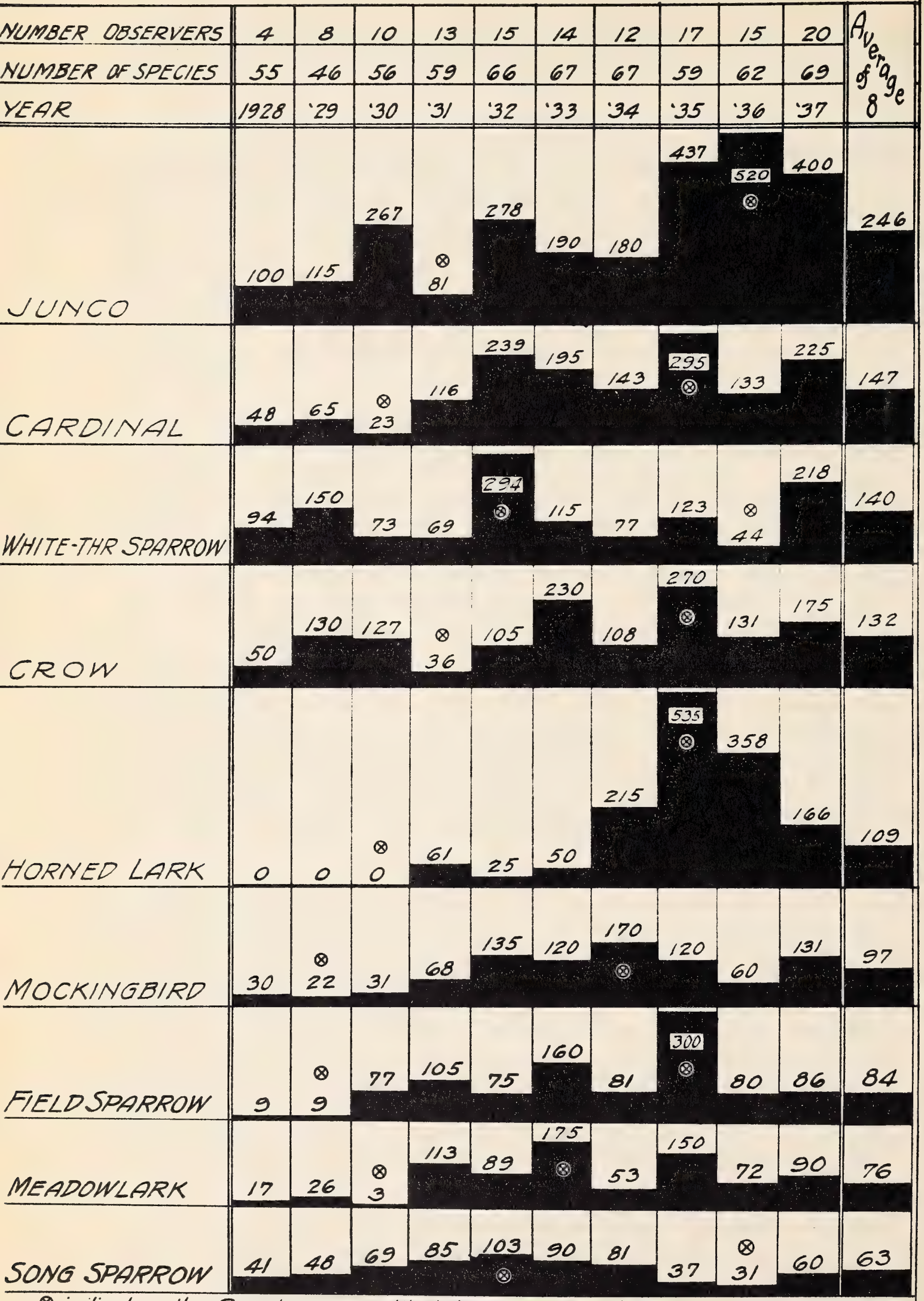
The areas covered lie chiefly southeast, south, and southwest of Nashville and from the city limits to about ten miles farther out. Only a small proportion of this area, of course, can be covered during the day of the census. Nashville lies in the northwest part of what geologists term the 'Basin of Middle Tennessee' and the altitudes range from 400 to 500 feet above sea level except on the hilltops. The soil, of limestone origin, is rich and produces a large variety of vegetation which in turn yields winter food for an avian population somewhat more abundant in winter than in less fertile areas. Dominant trees are the hackberry and red cedar, both of which bear berries upon which many species are largely dependent in cold weather.

Chart No. 1, shows graphically the relative abundance of the nine most common birds for the last ten census lists as well as the average of these over the ten year period in the last column. In determining this average, however, the two extremes (maximum and minimum numbers recorded) have been omitted because such a result presents a truer picture than if all ten were taken. It will be noted that the Slate-colored Junco leads the list while the Cardinal is second and the White-throated Sparrow ranks third. It will also be noted that in Chart No. 1, the highly gregarious species—Starlings, Grackles, Cowbirds and Robins—are not shown. This is because their appearance at the time of the Christmas census is too erratic to make them properly comparable to the species which live the entire winter in one locality. Some years, the four gregarious species are absent or nearly so while in other years they are present in large numbers. The Horned Larks are gregarious also, but are far less inclined to drift about than those mentioned. Some idea of the thoroughness of coverage may be gained by comparing the figures shown in the first two lines, giving the number of observers and number of species listed during each census.

Chart No. 2, presents five columns of averages for twenty-two species of birds. It is particularly interesting to note that in each case, the Junco holds first place among the non-gregarious species. The most acceptable result to be obtained from these several sets of averages are those given in the fourth column, the average of the past ten years with the two extremes omitted. Even this, however, does not present an entirely accurate picture for the reason that certain small species are obscure or else have the ability to slink away in the thickets without revealing their true numbers. Others, such as the Mockingbird, Flicker, Crow, and the like, are readily seen and counted to their full numbers. The fifth column therefore has been added in order to give the writer's opinion of what would be the probable rating if it were possible to actually find and count every bird within this area.

In the case of game birds, and doubtlessly of other species as well, there are definite indications that their abundance or scarcity fluctuates in cycles covering a period of years. This has also been found true of small mam-

## RELATIVE ABUNDANCE OF WINTER BIRDS AT NASHVILLE
## GRAPHIC PRESENTATION. - CHART # 1.



⊗ indicates the 2 extremes omitted in computing the average in last column.

# MOST COMMON MID-WINTER BIRDS ABOUT NASHVILLE, TENN.
# AS DETERMINED BY CRISTMAS CENSUS LISTS.

| 24 year average 1914 -1937 | 5 yr average 1933-1937 | 10 year average, 1928-1937 | | This order is probably more nearly correct. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | all ten | 2 extremes omitted | |
| a-Br. Grackle=17300 | Starling 1904 | Starling 8793 | Starling 1618 | Highly gregarious; too erratic to grade with other species. |
| b-Starling=7200 | Robin 167 | Grackle 590 | Grackle 361 | |
| c-Cowbird=2300 | Grackle 18 | Robin 156 | Robin 135 | |
| d-Robin = 1380 | Cowbird 8 | Cowbird 13 | Cowbird 10 | |
| 1-Junco 149 | 1-Junco 341 | 1-Junco 240 | 1-Junco 246 | 1-Junco |
| Crow 106 | H'd Lark 265 | Cardinal 150 | Cardinal 147 | Wh-thr. Sparrow |
| H'd Lark 101 | Cardinal 202 | H'd Lark 141 | Wh-thr. Spar. 140 | Field Sparrow |
| Wh-thr. Sparrow 98 | Crow 184 | Crow 137 | Crow 132 | Cardinal |
| 5-Cardinal 95 | 5-Eng. Spar.(e) 161 | 5-Wh-th. Spar. 126 | 5-H'd Lark 109 | 5-Car. Chickadee |
| Meadowlark 80 | Field Spar. 141 | Field Spar. 98 | Mockingbird 97 | Towhee |
| Field Spar. 69 | Mockingbird 120 | Mockingbird 89 | Field Spar. 84 | Titmouse |
| Song Spar. 52 | Wh-th' Spar. 115 | Meadowlark 79 | Meadowlark 76 | Song Sparrow |
| Mockingbird 50 | Meadowlark 108 | C. Chickadee 66 | C. Chickadee 66 | Crow |
| 10-Dove 40 | 10-C. Chickadee 87 | 10-Song Spar. 65 | 10-Bluebird 65 | 10-Mockingbird |
| Bluebird 38 | Waxwing 72 | Bluebird 62 | Song Spar. 63 | Horned Lark |
| C. Chickadee 38 | Dove 69 | Towhee 52 | Dove 47 | Eng. Sparrow |
| Flicker 36 | Bluebird 69 | Dove 50 | Towhee 46 | Carolina Wren |
| Towhee 33 | Towhee 63 | Waxwing 48 | Flicker 44 | Bluebird |
| 15-Kildeer 28 | 15-Song Spar. 60 | 15-Flicker 46 | 15-Kildeer 34 | 15-Meadowlark |
| Goldfinch 24 | Myrtle Warb. 54 | Kildeer 37 | Titmouse 33 | Downy Woodpecker |
| C. Waxwing 22 | Flicker 50 | Goldfinch 35 | Goldfinch 33 | Bob-white |
| Car. Wren 22 | Kildeer 47 | Titmouse 33 | Car. Wren 31 | Myrtle Warbler |
| Titmouse 21 | Goldfinch 47 | Car. Wren 32 | Wh-cr. Spar. 30 | Wh-crown Spar. |
| 20-Bob-white 20 | Wh-cr. Spar. 47 | 20-Wh-cr. Spar. 30 | 20-Bob-white 29 | 20-Flicker |
| Myrtle Warb. 19 | Titmouse 43 | Bob-white 29 | Myrtle Warb. 26 | Titmouse |

a-Grackle; except for 5 yrs, when 421500 were recorded, their average would be 22.8

c-Cowbird; " " 3 " , " 55000 " " , " " " " 8.5

d-Robin; " " 3 " , " 41000 " " , " " " " 88.1

b-Starlings were first recorded in 1923; average is computed for 15 subsequent years.

e-English Sparrow counts are not available prior to 1931.

A. F. G.

mals. The theory is that disease, predators, and adverse weather conditions, step in and thin out a species when it threatens to become too numerous, thus preserving the natural faunal balance. Chart No. 1 would seem to show a well defined cycle over 10 years in the case of the Song Sparrow.

After another term of years, if the local Christmas census lists are kept up as actively as they have been in the past, it will again be in order to summarize the results to ascertain what change if any has occurred in the relative abundance of the species listed on the accompanying charts.

NASHVILLE, TENN., December, 1938.

# ADDITIONAL NOTES ON PINE SISKINS IN THE GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK

BY ARTHUR STUPKA, Park Naturalist

In *The Migrant* for December, 1937, (Vol. 8, No. 2, pp. 69-70), the writer, in his article entitled "Pine Siskins in the Great Smokies," reported the first record of these birds from the Great Smoky Mountains National Park area (March, 1937) and discussed their status to and including December 3 of that year. In the present article this discussion is extended to cover such observations as were made on Pine Siskins in the following 12-months period.

**December, 1937—March, 1938,** (inclusive):

Siskins were observed on more than 50 days during this four-month period, and there is little question that the birds would have been noted daily had the writer made trips into the spruce-fir zone at more frequent intervals. However, this statement should not imply that these birds were restricted to the higher altitudes, for although their greatest concentrations were usually noted in the higher coniferous forests, yet the species invaded lowland areas rather frequently, and occasionally in considerable numbers. The birds were active under a variety of weather conditions, and at times when the mountains were blanketed in heavy fog, their peculiar notes alone would reveal their presence. A few came to a bird-feeding station on rare occasions during the winter, although there was no scarcity of their natural food. On our Christmas bird census the number of Siskins was estimated at 1000, and at other times during this period I regarded that number as being very conservative. It is possible that within the area of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park the population of Pine Siskins was between 3000 and 5000 throughout most or all of this period.

**April, 1938:** The last of the big Siskin flocks was observed on April 19 when well over 1000 birds were noted feeding in trees and on the ground at Newfound Gap, on the Tennessee-North Carolina state line. In their foraging as well as in their flights the birds maintained an unusually compact group.

**May, 1938:** Only twice during this month were Siskins observed, and in both instances the birds were very few in number and were noted only in the spruce-fir regions. The disappearance of the big flocks had come about rather suddenly, and it was believed that they had either disbanded for their nesting period or else had left the Park. Their food supply appeared to be plentiful.

**June, 1938:** On June 1 a flock of about 30 Siskins was observed in the fir forest which covers the summit of Mt. LeConte—our third highest mountain in the Park (6,593 ft.) One of these birds appeared to be a juvenal as its notes were unlike those which I had ever heard uttered by this species. There appeared to be little or no difference in its appearance, but the light conditions were such in this dark forest that I could not be certain on this point.

On June 13 the last Pine Siskins which I was to see for a period of four months were observed at Indian Gap, on the Tennessee-North Carolina state line. As the record proved to be of some significance, I wish to be somewhat more specific than heretofore: Upon alighting from my car at Indian Gap (where I had arranged to meet those members of the Tennessee Ornithological Society who were beginning a week's field work on the birds of the Park), I noticed three Siskins fly into the top of a small fir which grew nearby. For two or three minutes the birds were occupied with feeding on the new lighter-colored terminal growth of this tree. One individual then made its way close beside one of the other two birds and commenced fluttering its wings after the fashion of a juvenal. The bird toward whom this display was apparently intended stopped its feeding, and, after pausing for a few seconds, extended its bill to where it appeared merely to touch the bill of the second bird. I could detect no actual food-offering, however. Soon after, all three birds flew away, but several minutes later I came upon two others in the dense forest near at hand. These Siskins spent some time preening their feathers while perched low in the spruce and fir trees, and while so engaged I was able to approach them closely. The notes which they uttered on occasions were unlike those of the adult birds and in their streaked plumage was the pale yellowish wash which characterizes the immature birds.

Members of the Tennessee Ornithological Society who were studying the birds of the Park area during the period June 13-20, 1938, listed a total of 16 Pine Siskins from altitudes of 4500 feet or higher, the largest number observed in any one region being eight.

**July—December 5, 1938:** After the episode of June 13, already decribed, the writer observed no Pine Siskins until October 15 when four birds were noted feeding on weed seeds near the headquarters area of the Park, two miles south of Gatlinburg. One or two of these birds were again observed in this vicinity on three of the remaining days of October. From October 26 to date (December 5) no Pine Siskins have come to my notice.

It is not known as to how many Pine Siskins nested in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park during the year 1938, but the discovery of juvenals in June indicates that a certain proportion if not the great majority of the big wintering flocks bred in this area.

GATLINBURG, TENN., December 5, 1938.

Start the New Year right by adding to your equipment for enjoying the sport of bird-watching—a new bird book, camera, or the like. Our advertisers have many timely suggestions. You may also consult your local officers or write the nearest regional editor.

# THE SEASON

MEMPHIS AREA:—Since June there have been only a very few scattered rains with the result that the 'barrow-pits' in the Lakeview area became dry early. The 'big pit,' site of the former blackbird roost, became much reduced in size. As reported last time the Mississippi River was higher than usual at this season,—just enough to maintain Mud Lake too deep for herons and shorebirds. After the run-off the lake dried up fast and on Oct. 30 only a few shallow pools were left. But during five weeks of favorable water level our field trips were replete with interest. (See the Round Table for notes on rare shorebirds.) Herons became common Sept. 25, as noted in the last issue, and the American Egret remained 10 to 14 days longer than usual. We recorded 130 Egrets on Oct. 9 and 74 on Oct. 16. The Little Blue Herons were more uncommon in this immediate area than for several years. This may have been a local condition. They were reported common last spring in one large heronry 200 miles south of here but a second heronry held only a scattering of nests, altho the birds may have moved. A White Pelican, either in winter plumage or first winter plumage, was seen on Oct. 9 and again on Oct. 16 and was not at all shy. After disappearing over the trees towards Horn Lake, in company with 'flushed' Egrets, it would soon return and soar back and forth near us and finally alight. It would allow us to approach to within 60 yards. A lone Wood Ibis was also there on the 16th. Four Caspian Terns were seen Oct. 9 (our third record). One was evidently an immature judging from its plumage and actions; it apparently was begging food from the adult that hovered in the vicinity attempting to induce it to take flight at our approach.——Unidentified 'peeps' numbered 400 on Oct. 9 and 210 on Oct. 16; those we approached close enough to identify included 4 Western and 10 or more Semipalmated Sandpipers; the Least were probably common. Pectoral Sandpipers and L. Yellowlegs were uncommon except for 70 of the latter on the 9th. It was unusual not to find 'Solitaries' or an occasional 'Spotted'.——Pond and Simpson on Oct. 6 found 500 Mallards and 50 L. Scaup Ducks on North Lake and 250 Least Sandpipers on Mud Lake. A few Black Ducks, Mallards, Pintails, and Blue-winged Teals were seen at Mud Lake on Oct. 9 and still less on Oct. 16 when the water was about gone. One of our most unusual experiences was watching Wood Ducks come over, about sundown, from northwest of Mud Lake to the large 'barrow-pit' where they dropped in among the willows or into the small patches of open water. In strings of 2 to 20 they passed 10 to 20 feet over our heads as we stood in the tall weeds or willows along the 'pit'. On Oct. 23, even after we returned to the auto parked at the levee they passed over us in hurried flight. The total count was 380. The next Sunday Mr. Ganier accompanied us here and we saw over 100. The writer waded out into the water and in the dusk several came down nearby,——some only touched the water before taking off again but a few remained for several minutes before they saw the immobile enemy.——Due to the mild weather gulls were not seen on the river in front of town until Nov. 23 when Mrs. Coffey noted

12 Ring-billed Gulls at their favorite spot, the sewer mouth at Talbot Street. 20 L. Scaup were also seen. On the 26th, 20 Ring-billeds were seen and 96 L. Scaup. Since then only a few gulls, if any, have been seen.—BEN B. COFFEY, JR., Memphis.

CORINTH AREA:—The afternoon of Nov. 13 was cloudy, cool, and still. Misty rain fell intermittenly. Birds were plentiful and active in Tuscumbia bottom. A strange, sweet song came from a thicket. Investigation proved it to be that of a Fox Sparrow. I got close enough to the bird to see the muscles in his little throat at work. The song of this bird is said to be the finest of all of the songs of the Sparrows; and one bird book says that many a bird student has never had an opportunity to hear it. It was indeed surprising to me to hear it at this particular time of the year.——An owl flushed at my feet, a large Barred one. He lit close by in a small tree; when I tried to flush him again he refused to leave the place. Then a swamp rabbit jumped from almost the identical spot and ran into the underbrush. The owl flew a few feet farther and stopped again. It was quite evident the bird had been stalking the rabbit.——A year ago in this same woods (*Migrant*, Dec. 1937) I witnessed a riotous, but harmless, outbreak among several Ruby-crowned Kinglets. On the present hike I had a somewhat similar experience. This time the actors were a male Golden-crowned and a female Ruby-crowned. The former flashed his brilliant orange-colored crest in apparent anger as he tried to drive off the 'Ruby'. The whole top of his head was aflame. The crest appeared fan-shaped, being broad at the back end and narrow in front. This was the first time I ever saw a 'Golden' raise his top feathers in anger or excitement, although of course I have seen the Ruby-crowned do it many times. The ruction was soon ended when the Ruby flew away.——Added to my list for the afternoon there were also many other Fox Sparrows, 3 Brown Creepers, 3 Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, 2 Hermit Thrushes, with Towhees, 'White-throats', Flickers, Titmice, Chickadees, Kinglets, and Blue Jays too numerous to count. My companion, Elgin Wright, in an excited moment said, "I wish Ben Coffey were here, we'd show him some birds!"—BENJ. R. WARRINER, Corinth, Miss.

CLARKSVILLE AREA:—Here, as elsewhere, prolonged dry weather marked the fall season. We had no rainfall from Sept. 11 till Oct. 19 (and then only small amounts), so that during the height of the migration we missed those turns in the weather from which we expect shifts in the bird population. But we found such changes taking place just the same and our migration records show dates much in keeping with those of former years. As an example of migrants moving during stable weather, Mrs. Hutchison found on the morning of Sept. 23 a weed field near her banding station swarming with Warblers, Vireos, and Flycatchers that must have come to rest there during the night. At last real migration weather arrived and the blustery and rainy night of Oct. 19 was dotted from dusk till dawn with the small calls of countless feathered travellers. They flew so low that we caught ourselves looking for some nearby hedge or tree whence they might issue from some slumbering birds. Soon after dark the strong notes of Blue Geese were heard. Around this date a number of our observations are grouped. From Oct. 15 to 19 immature Chipping Sparrows were abundant in the shade trees in town. The big Blackbird roost in the city broke up on the 18th, the henceforth diminishing fragments taking other sections for their nightly quarters. On Oct. 17 an Osprey was killed at Dunbar's Cave by a keeper who saw in the bird only a threat to the fishermen's sport. On the Cumberland River a Double-crested Cormorant was seen from Oct. 19 to 22, and 7 Ruddy Ducks on the 20th. Although Ducks seemed to arrive slowly at first, they now show a decided increase in numbers over past years. New species recorded are Bufflehead and Hooded Merganser. An enjoyable sight were 7 Pintails on Dunbar Cave Lake, Dec. 4. Wood Ducks were reported to us as common on the Cumberland River, Nov. 24 and 27. We found a Pectoral Sandpiper among a group of Killdeer and Wilson Snipe on the shore of the P. A. Meriwether pond, Oct. 22, but in general there were not many shore birds here this fall. Our Chimney Swifts left earlier than last year, the latest observations being Oct. 11 at Clarksville and Oct. 13 at Erin, Tenn. Hummingbirds also seem to have left sooner than usual, as none were seen after Sept. 27. On the other hand the Yellow-billed Cuckoo was listed regularly until Oct. 27. A Vesper Sparrow,—a species that is rare with us in fall and winter, was found by Dr. Pickering on Oct. 3 and the first fall record of the Palm Warbler was on Oct. 9. Following the wet summer season we were surprised that Short-billed Marsh Wrens did not come to the few marshy sections that sometime attract them here,—we only found a single individual at the rush-lined edge of a pond on Oct. 22.—ALFRED CLEBSCH, Clarksville.

THE SEASON AT NASHVILLE: — Migrating Chimney Swifts had "thinned out" at an earlier date than usual this year, for by Oct. 15, most roosting chimneys were deserted in spite of the fact that mild weather had prevailed. The chimney at 928 Broad St., where no banding had been done, was harboring about 7000 on Oct. 6, but their numbers rapidly diminished and on the last date observed by the writer, Oct. 20, only 2 went to roost there. H. C. Monk, however, watched this chimney the following evening and saw four enter. During the night the temperature dropped to 41 degrees and no more were seen after this date.——Philadelphia Vireos are always rare enough to be watched with interest. On Oct. 8, two were seen at Columbia during the course of the Bluegrass Chapter's field day there. One of these birds was busily engaged in eating berries of the Virginia creeper vine which seemed odd for a bird which is purely insectivorous during the warm months. The Biological Survey's examination of stomach contents, however, shows that many vireos turn from "bugs" to berries as the cool autumn days come on.——An immature Whistling Swan was shot on Nov. 19, by a hunter who claimed to have mistaken it for a goose. At my request it was given to the State Museum. The bird had alighted, by itself, on the surface of a small lake near Russellville, Ky., about 50 miles north of Nashville. This is one of the very few recent records we have for this general area and its killing was a regrettable instance of ignorance. ——G. R. Mayfield reported a Blue-headed Vireo, in song, on Oct. 24, also late dates for: Wood Pewee, 1 on Oct. 20; Tennessee Warbler, 3 on Oct. 20;

Black-throated Green Warbler, 1 on Oct. 23; and Magnolia Warbler, 1 on Nov. 6. The last was also seen by H. C. Monk and is a very late record. ——From his records, Mr. Monk reports an early Song Sparrow and a Sapsucker, both on Oct. 3, a late Brown Thrasher on Oct. 13, a Wood Thrush on Oct. 5, and a Black-billed Cuckoo on Oct. 9. The writer saw one of the last mentioned species at Columbia on Oct. 8, and also a Blackburnian Warbler. Cedar Waxwings were unusually common all thru September. ——A record of the Snowy Egret was reported by Mrs. C. B. Tippens who saw one on Sept. 1 near the Hard Scuffle Road.—A. F. GANIER, Nashville.

JOHNSON CITY AREA:—This fall brought about only a few marked variations in the seasonal behavior of the birds. Notably among such was the early departure of the Robins which breed here. Generally the Robins leave about Sept. 24 but this year they left early in September and while the young were still being fed by the parent birds. Following the departure of our breeding Robins there were some still observed; however, they were presumably migrants from farther north. I had imagined that this early departure indicated an early fall but in that I was pleasantly disappointed and have not yet been able to discern the reason for this unusual early migration activity.——The Catbirds remained until the last days of September,—possibly a few days later than the date of their usual departure. Why they should have remained longer than the Robins awakens other questions in my mind as their departure is usually simultaneous.——The arrival of the Rusty Blackbirds was also earlier than usual, and proceeded more leisurely,—the flocks being smaller and the time spent here more extended than usual. Many of the birds visited my garden and gave opportunity for close observation of their rusty plumage.——The Migrant Shrike was first observed here on Oct. 30 and was seen again on Nov. 2, being about the usual time for its arrival. It spends the winter here, a very interesting and useful member of our winter avifauna.——The fall migration gave evidence of abundant bird life,—even the hawks, now very rare in this section, were seen in unusual numbers. It would be a wonderful step forward if something could be done to stop the indiscriminate slaughter of our hawks and prevent their gradual extinction.—BRUCE P. TYLER AND ROBT. B. LYLE, Johnson City.

## CHAPTER NEWS

We are glad to welcome a chapter of eleven members at Dickson to our roster and we want to congratulate its president, Mr. W. P. Morrison, for developing and organizing it. A delegation of Nashville members drove down for the organization meeting. KNOXVILLE: New officers are: Prof. Henry Meyer, pres.; Miss Dorothy E. Williams, vice-pres.; Miss Ruth Chiles, sec-treas.; Mr. Wm. Walker, Jr., curator. Meetings are held the first Wednesday night of each month at Flowercraft with Sunday field trips scheduled for each third Sunday. MEMPHIS: New officers are: Mrs. L. G. Guth, pres.; Mr. Fred Carney, vice-pres.; Mrs. T. I. Klyce, sec.; Miss Katherine Hale, treas. Meetings are scheduled at the Pink Palace Museum every other Monday at 8 P.M., resuming on Jan. 9.

# THE MIGRANT

A QUARTERLY JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE STUDY OF TENNESSEE BIRDS.

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Items for publication should be sent to the Editor.

*"The simple truth about birds is interesting enough,
it is not necessary to go beyond it."*

The *Migrant* extends the Season's greetings to its friends coupled with sincere thanks to all who have assisted in making each issue possible. We especially want to thank Mr. Ganier, Mr. Clebsch, and Mrs. Coffey. Because of the large amount of work connected with editing our journal and having it published, we have not had the opportunity on many occasions to write and acknowledge contributions and other correspondence as we would have liked to have done. As it is, our correspondence has increased many times and represents an appreciable part of the time necessary for the *Migrant*. So we will appreciate unsolicited copy and the earlier each time the better, to enable us to spread out the work. We would especially like short notes from as many members as possible. Is your area represented in this issue?

The annual Christmas bird census will be under way as this issue goes into the mails and we hope that most of our members will have been able to take part in this, one of our most important cooperative projects. There's an extra zest in being out at Christmas time looking for **and finding** many different kinds of birds when most people think "the birds have gone south." In our region we are favored with a plentiful winter bird-life. If you haven't already been out, go New Year's Day.

Mr. Clebsch reports a gift of $10 from our Knoxville members. For this we are indeed grateful as it helped us on this issue. They have also sent in 1939 due for 15 members. Let us all cooperate and save our secretary time and postage by remitting 1939 dues before January 10.

'RARE SHOREBIRDS AT MUD LAKE' was carried over to the next issue due to the receipt of another article after going to press.

PLEASE SEND IN CHRISTMAS CENSUS LISTS BY JANUARY 10.

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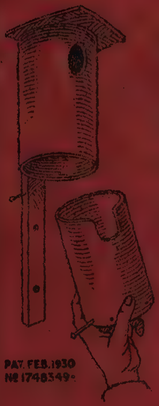

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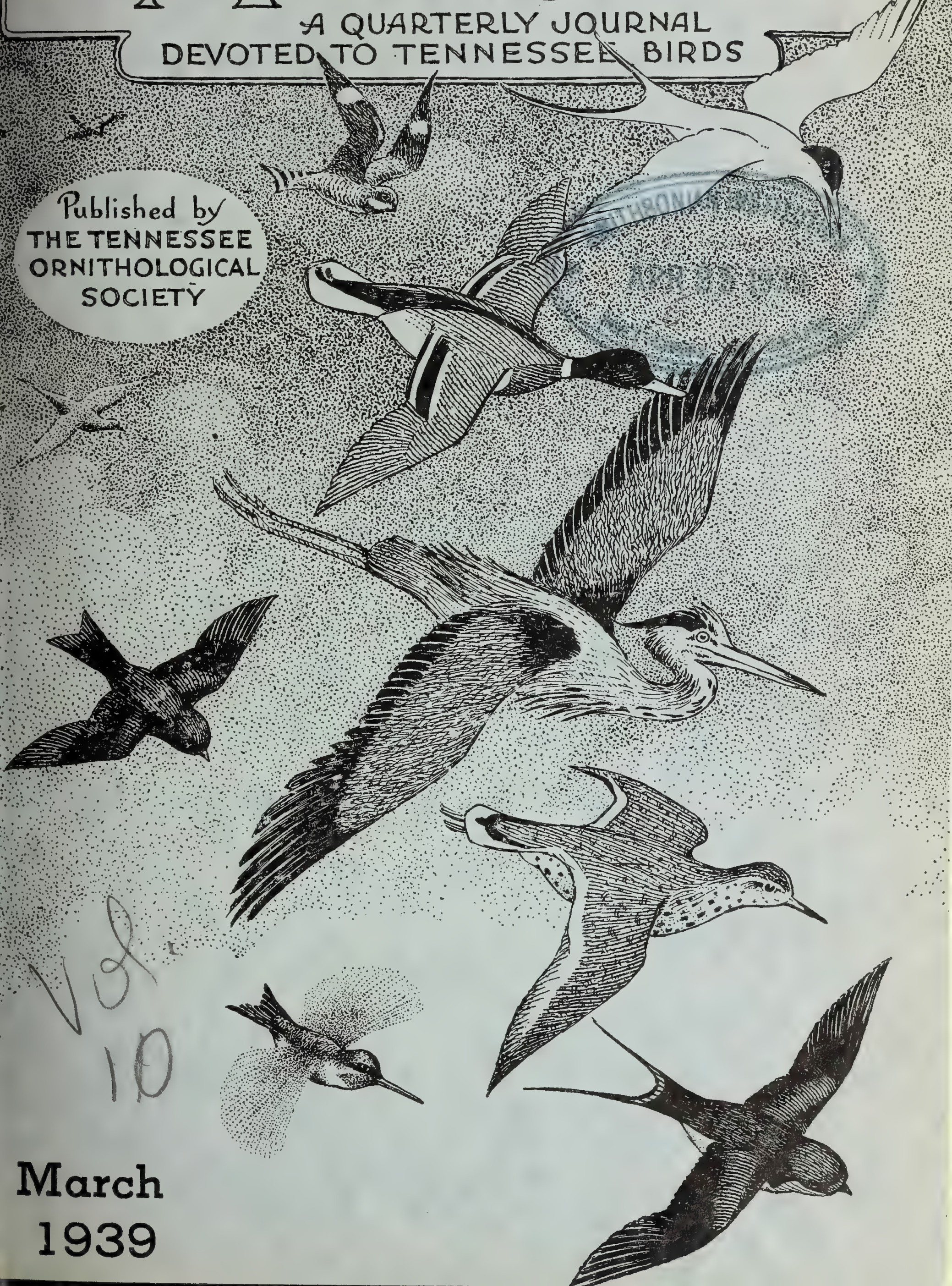

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# THE MIGRANT

VOL. X. MARCH, 1939 NO. 1

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## IN MEMORIAM: ALONZO C. WEBB TEACHER AND ARTIST

### February 2, 1939

By G. R. Mayfield

The news of Mr. A. C. Webb's death has brought sadness to his many friends throughout the South. He will be especially missed by the Tennessee Ornithological Society of which he was Founder and First President. At the suggestion of our editor, this sketch of his life has been written so that the younger members of our Society may know more of him personally and of his varied activities as Artist, Teacher, and Nature Lover.

Most Tennesseans will be surprised to learn that he was not a native son but that he was born in Chariton, Iowa. Tennessee was the state of his adoption, due to the fact that his grandmother had often described the Volunteer State to him as a place of beauty and opportunity for a young artist and educator. Consequently, he turned south instead of west after finishing his course at Western College, Bushnell, Illinois.

Soon after locating in Nashville in the year 1885, he opened up a business college and carried on this school about seven years, when he became supervisor of art for the Nashville Public Schools. For nearly forty years he went from school to school inspiring thousands of students to get a new vision of form, of color, and of beauty, through his teachings in the realm of art. At least once a year during this time, he would take along his bird skins and use them for illustrating the principles of drawing. His unusual power of describing birds and their habits, soon had a far wider appeal than in the classroom exercises. Tens of thousands of children became bird students, nature lovers, and conservationists as a result of his talks.

This interest in birds led him to write the first book on Tennessee birds by a Tennessean. This volume, *Some Birds and Their Ways*, appeared in the year 1898 and was revised and enlarged for school use in 1917 as *Our Bird Book*. He continued his activities in conservation by drawing up the first bill for bird protection ever passed by the State Legislature. Other ornithologists joined him in field studies and in 1915 the Tennessee Ornithological Society was founded with Mr. Webb as first President. The other founders were: Judge H. Y. Hughes, who died in 1921, and Messrs. Dixon Merritt, Albert Ganier, and G. R. Mayfield.

His love of nature caused him to be interested not only in birds, but in flowers, in forests, in fossils, in fish, in Indian relics, and, later in life in

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archery. He went on several expeditions with different groups to various parts of the state, and those who accompanied him will remember all their lives the delightful experiences in thus associating with him personally.

Mr. Webb is survived by his wife and four children. The children are all noted for their work in art and in education. A. C. Webb, Jr., of London, England, is well known in Europe and America for his sketches and pictures. Miss Suzanne Webb has likewise done some fine sketches at home and abroad and teaches art in Nashville. Dr. H. A. Webb is Professor of Chemistry at Peabody College and is known throughout the country for his interest in popular science. The youngest daughter, Ellenna, is married to a splendid physician, Dr. Roy Douglass, of Huntingdon, Tennessee.

The most striking trait in Mr. Webb's character was the spirit of the pioneer and discoverer. This led him to seek adventure and his life work in Tennessee rather than in his native state. Here he was the founder of the first business college in Nashville, the first supervisor of art in the Nashville Public Schools, the founder and first president of the Tennessee Ornithological Society, the author of the first book on Tennessee birds by a Tennessean, the promoter of the first legislation in this State for bird protection, and also a pioneer in renewing an interest in archery in Nashville, even though he was more than seventy years of age when he became interested in the sport.

Remarkable, too, was his love of form, of color, of movement, and of beauty generally. Few people have ever surpassed him in his power of revealing the character of a bird in its pose and expression, and his interest in birds was doubtless due to the fact that they alone of all creatures could challenge him to his finest efforts and satisfy his artistic soul.

Combined with this love of nature was a soul of simplicity, of sincerity, and of devotion to his work that won him so many friends in all walks of life. It made no difference whether his hearers were little children or members of the Tennessee Academy of Science, whether they were the social elite at the Centennial Club or a group of country people in a rural Church. They all heard him with great enthusiasm and went away determined to carry on the work of bird study and of conservation.

Hundreds of friends attended his funeral in the open,—with birds to sing his requiem, with the blessed sunlight shining through the clouds, and with a simple tribute from a fellow bird-lover. But Mr. Webb is not dead. Thousands of children now mostly grown to maturity, who loved nature and life all the more because of his teaching and influence, tens of thousands of birds which live and sing today because he was their friend, the many wise laws that are now on the Statute Books of Tennessee as a result of his efforts, and the many other influences for conservation that are now spreading in every widening circle all testify that his memory will abide so long as the granite monument in Spring Hill Cemetery on which is carved a simple epitaph composed before his death:

*A. C. WEBB*
*Teacher*
*Artist*
1859-1939

NASHVILLE, March ,1939.

# SEVENTEEN YEARS AT ISLAND HOME

By W. M. Walker, Jr.

On April 27, 1922 a small group of bird lovers met at the home of Mr. H. P. Ijams to study birds and exchange ornithological experiences. They thought the day a great success and agreed that it should be repeated the following year. Thus began the Island Home Spring Census,—the eighteenth consecutive census will be taken this year on April 30. Since 1929 the date has been the Sunday nearest May 1. The summary which follows undertakes to list the species observed, together with the number of years each species was present on the census date. Thus, Woodcock, 6; means this species was recorded 6 of the 17 Spring Census dates. In the earlier years of this census-series the day's total was approximately 60 species, but lately with more observers afield, the total list has been near or above 100 species.

Common Loon, 2; Horned Grebe, 1; Pied-billed Grebe, 1; Great Blue Heron, 1; Little Blue Heron, 1; Green Heron, 10; Black-crowned Night Heron, 2; Mallard, 2; Pintail, 1; Green-winged Teal, 1; Lesser Scaup Duck, 3; Hooded Merganser, 1; Turkey Vulture, 12; Black Vulture, 5; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 3; Cooper's Hawk, 8; Red-tailed Hawk, 1; Osprey, 2; Sparrow Hawk, 12; Bob-white, 17; Mexican Bob-white, 2; (released in vicinity in 1931, recorded in 1931 and 1932); King Rail, 1; Coot, 4; Killdeer, 16; Woodcock, 6; Wilson's Snipe, 5; Spotted Sandpiper, 17; Solitary Sandpiper, 17; Lesser Yellow-legs, 4; Least Sandpiper, 1; Herring Gull, 1; Forster's Tern, 1 (1933, specimen collected); Mourning Dove, 17; Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 11; Black-billed Cuckoo, 6; Barn Owl, 12; Screech Owl, 12; Great Horned Owl, 1; Chuck-will's-widow, 4; Whip-poor-will, 9; Nighthawk, 16; Chimney Swift, 17; Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 16; Belted Kingfisher, 17; Flicker, 16; Pileated Woodpecker, 10; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 14; Red-headed Woodpecker, 17; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 8; Hairy Woodpecker, 10; Downy Woodpecker, 17; Kingbird, 14; Crested Flycatcher, 16; Phoebe, 17; Acadian Flycatcher, 15; Wood Pewee, 16; Tree Swallow, 5; Bank Swallow, 7; Rough-winged Swallow, 16; Barn Swallow, 11; Cliff Swallow, 2; Purple Martin, 17; Blue Jay, 17; Crow, 17; Carolina Chickadee, 17; Tufted Titmouse, 17; White-breasted Nuthatch, 6; Brown Creeper, 4; Winter Wren, 3; Bewick's Wren, 13; Carolina Wren, 17; Short-billed Marsh Wren, 1; Mockingbird, 15; Catbird, 17; Brown Thrasher, 17; Robin, 17; Wood Thrush, 17; Hermit Thrush, 5; Olive-backed Thrush, 11; Gray-cheeked Thrush, 7; Veery, 14; Bluebird, 17; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 17; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 4; Ruby-crowned Kinglet. 4; Cedar Waxwing, 14; Migrant Shrike, 2; Starling, 12; White-eyed Vireo, 17; Yellow-throated Vireo, 15; Blue-headed and or Mountain Vireo, 2; Red-eyed Vireo, 17; Philadelphia Vireo, 1; Warbling Vireo, 7. The following warblers: Black and White, 17; Prothonotary, 8; Worm-eating, 11; Golden-winged, 3; Blue-winged, 1; Tennessee, 6; Orange-crowned, 1; Nashville, 2; Parula, 8; Yellow, 16; Magnolia, 13; Cape May, 4; Black-throated Blue, 8; Myrtle, 15; Black-throated Green, 11; Cerulean, 11; Blackburnian, 12; Yellow-throated, 2; Sycamore, 6; Chestnut-sided, 13; Bay-breasted, 8; Black-poll, 11; Pine, 12; Prairie, 9; Palm, 2; Oven-bird, 17; Northern Water-thrush, 2; Louisiana Water-thrush, 17; Kentucky, 16; Connecticut, 2; Mourning, 3; Maryland Yellow-throat, 17; Yellow-breasted Chat, 17; Hooded, 16; Wilson's, 1; Canada, 8; and American Redstart, 17; English Sparrow, 17; Bobolink, 4; Meadowlark, 17; Red-wing, 16; Orchard Oriole, 13; Baltimore Oriole, 9; Rusty Blackbird, 2; Purple Grackle, 17; Cowbird, 13; Scarlet Tanager, 17; Summer Tanager, 17; Cardinal, 17; Rose-breasted Grosbeak, 11; Indigo Bunting, 16; Purple Finch, 8; Goldfinch, 16; Towhee, 17. The following sparrows: Savannah, 15; Grasshopper, 8; Vesper, 8; Slate-colored Junco, 7; Chipping, 16; Field, 17; White-crowned, 5; White-throated, 16; Fox, 5; Lincoln's, 3; Swamp, 13; and Song Sparrow, 17.

Of the 160 species recorded over the 17 year period 38 were found every census date while 15 were recorded every year except one; 13 species were recorded only twice and 21 were seen only once.

We might suggest that "times recorded" is a very good index of the relative abundance of each species for this section of the state during the months of April and May. To illustrate, the following species were recorded 6 of the 17 years; Woodcock, Black-billed Cuckoo, White-breasted Nuthatch, Tennessee Warbler and Sycamore Warbler. These birds are not rare but neither are they as common as the Catbird, Wood Thrush, White-eyed Vireo, Oven-bird, Summer Tanager, Indigo Bunting and others. Naturally there are exceptions to be noted, but we think this is true generally. The data used was kindly furnished by Mr. Paul Adams of Crab Orchard, Tennessee, and Mr. H. P. Ijams of Knoxville. Mr. Ijams' place is The Island Home Bird Sanctuary which is the territory covered by these census trips.

KNOXVILLE, March, 1939.

## ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CENSUS

BY OUR MEMBERS

Our tenth annual state-wide mid-winter or Christmas census of bird life is tabulated below. The number of lists submitted (17 from the state) was larger than heretofore and necessitated two sets of tabulations. Lists from Corinth and Rosedale, Miss. were again included and since the space allowed it, we took the liberty of including an interesting and valuable list from Moselle in South Miss. and two lists made by your editor and party in Northeast Miss., at Rara Avis and Tupelo, respectively. These five lists are not published elsewhere. Memphis chapter members also made censuses at Moon Lake (Lula) and Hickory Flat, Miss. which were included in *Bird-Lore* (1939, Supplement to Vol. XLI, No. 1, p. 37) along with the lists from the Great Smokies, Greeneville, Memphis, and Nashville (pp. 35-36). We meet the Nashville census-list again in *The Kentucky Warbler* (1939, p. 4) in company with several interesting Kentucky lists and a few others from out of that state.

The highest single list of 70 species (from Nashville) ties the record (Memphis, 1935 and 1936) while the composite list for all Tennessee reports embraces 92 species, one less than the record which was set last year. The Pine Siskin and Red Crossbill were absent from the Great Smokies list and Black-crowned Night Heron (accidental), Canada Goose, Canvas-back, American Merganser, Broad-winged Hawk, and Herring Gull failed to be recorded elsewhere. Species added this year included Loon, Baldpate, Golden Eagle, Woodcock, Barn Owl, and Yellow Palm Warbler. The Eagle, Owl, and Warbler appear in a Christmas census in *The Migrant* for the first time.

| TABLE I | White Bluff Jan. 8, 1939 | Covington Dec. 26, 1938 | Humboldt Dec. 25 | Lewisburg Jan. 8 | Pulaski Jan. 5 | Murfreesboro Dec. 25 | Johnson City Dec. 29 | Greeneville Dec. 20 | Rugby Jan. 8 | Rara Avis, Miss. Dec. 25 | Moselle, Miss. Dec. 23 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Number of species | 43 | 31 | 29 | 38 | 30 | 47 | 31 | 38 | 31 | 45 | 42 |
| Number of individuals | 1118 | 650 | 551 | 610 | 1418 | 2343 | 2512 | 995 | 467 | 1198 | 1685 |
| Number of observers | 5 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 2 |
| Pied-billed Grebe | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 2 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Ring-necked Duck | 3 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Turkey Vulture | 9 | .... | 180 | .... | .... | .... | 29 | 6 | .... | .... | 23 |
| Black Vulture | .... | .... | .... | 2 | .... | 3 | 16 | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Cooper's Hawk | 1 | .... | 2 | .... | .... | 1 | 1 | 1 | .... | .... | 1 |
| Red-tailed Hawk | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | .... | 1 | .... | .... | 1 | .... | 3 |
| Red-shouldered Hawk | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1 | .... |
| Marsh Hawk | .... | .... | 3 | .... | .... | 1 | .... | .... | .... | 1 | .... |
| Sparrow Hawk | 71 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 5 | .... | 1 | 1 | 1 | .... |
| Bob-white | 52 | .... | 2 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 18 | .... | .... |
| Killdeer | 4 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 6 | .... | .... | 3 | 6 |
| Mourning Dove | 5 | 7 | 10 | 1 | 30 | 12 | 4 | 150 | 25 | 86 | 28 |
| Screech Owl | .... | .... | .... | 1 | .... | 1 | 2 | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Great Horned Owl | 1 | .... | .... | 1 | .... | 1 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Barred Owl | .... | .... | 1 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Belted Kingfisher | 3 | 2 | 1 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1 |
| Flicker | 8 | 2 | 2 | 7 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 34 | 23 |
| Pileated Woodpecker | 4 | .... | .... | 2 | 1 | 1 | .... | 1 | 1 | 8 | .... |
| Red-bellied Woodpecker | 7 | 12 | 3 | 7 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 12 | 7 |
| Red-headed Woodpecker | 1 | .... | 2 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1 | .... |
| Yellow-bellied Sapsucker | 2 | 1 | .... | 1 | .... | 8 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| Hairy Woodpecker | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 2 | .... | .... | .... | .... | 5 |
| Downy Woodpecker | 9 | 1 | .... | 5 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 6 | 11 | 8 | .... |
| Phoebe | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | .... | 11 |
| Horned Larks* | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 100 | 50 | 40 | .... | .... | .... |
| Blue Jay | 16 | 30 | 15 | 3 | 1 | 12 | 11 | 11 | 12 | 28 | 27 |
| Crow | 43 | 50 | 12 | 26 | 50 | 500 | 482 | 400 | 5 | 22 | .... |
| Chickadees* | 11 | 3 | 5 | 37 | 15 | 7 | 8 | 12 | 34 | 14 | 10 |
| Tufted Titmouse | 17 | .... | 6 | 9 | 6 | 4 | 34 | 10 | 21 | 12 | 16 |
| White-breasted Nuthatch | 1 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 3 | 7 | 1 | .... |
| Red-breasted Nuthatch | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 10 | .... | .... |
| Brown Creeper | .... | .... | 1 | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1 | .... | .... | 1 |
| Winter Wren | .... | .... | .... | 2 | 1 | 2 | .... | .... | .... | 4 | 2 |
| Bewick's Wren | 1 | 1 | .... | 2 | .... | 8 | .... | 2 | .... | 1 | .... |
| Carolina Wren | 10 | 18 | 4 | 27 | 15 | 7 | 15 | 10 | 5 | 2 | 5 |
| Mockingbird | 12 | 25 | 9 | 13 | 6 | 22 | 9 | 13 | 1 | 9 | 47 |
| Brown Thrasher | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 15 |
| Robin | 73 | 50 | 150 | 10 | 6 | 5 | .... | 2 | .... | 3 | 219 |
| Hermit Thrush | 19 | 2 | .... | .... | .... | 5 | .... | 2 | .... | 5 | 3 |
| Bluebird | 54 | 6 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 14 | 8 | 6 | 7 | 26 | 60 |
| Golden-crowned Kinglet | 7 | .... | 7 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 7 | 7 | 6 | 10 | 30 |
| Ruby-crowned Kinglet | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1 | .... |
| American Pipit | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 69 | .... |
| Cedar Waxwing | .... | .... | 5 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 9 | 18 |
| Shrikes* | .... | 2 | 4 | .... | .... | .... | 1 | .... | .... | 1 | 4 |
| Starling | .... | .... | 30 | 24 | 700 | 1000 | 1555 | 25 | 66 | 15 | .... |
| Myrtle Warbler | 1 | 5 | .... | 4 | .... | 4 | 16 | 14 | 1 | 5 | .... |
| English Sparrow | 2 | 8 | 65 | C. | C. | 25 | 100 | 85 | 35 | 30 | .... |
| Meadowlark | 27 | 12 | 10 | 48 | 45 | 25 | 3 | 45 | 7 | 75 | 35 |
| Red-wing | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 50 | .... |
| Rusty Blackbird | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 45 | 53 |
| Bronzed Grackle | .... | .... | .... | * | 3 | 100 | .... | .... | .... | 3 | 200 |
| Cowbird | .... | .... | .... | .... | 300 | 40 | .... | 2 | .... | .... | .... |
| Cardinal | 33 | 10 | .... | 63 | 42 | 35 | 29 | 19 | 3 | 11 | 34 |
| Purple Finch | 12 | .... | .... | 1 | .... | 50 | .... | 9 | .... | .... | .... |
| Goldfinch | 26 | .... | .... | 8 | 1 | 2 | 20 | 6 | 14 | 3 | .... |
| Towhee | 30 | 2 | .... | 8 | .... | 25 | .... | 5 | 5 | 9 | 28 |
| Savannah Sparrow | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 13 | 47 |
| Slate-colored Junco | 257 | 300 | .... | 89 | 66 | 50 | 75 | 42 | 130 | 166 | 226 |
| Tree Sparrow | 1 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Chipping Sparrow | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 2 | .... | .... | .... | .... | 192 |
| Field Sparrow | 102 | 40 | .... | 57 | 23 | 100 | 4 | 14 | 32 | 183 | 55 |
| White-crowned Sparrow | .... | 8 | .... | 15 | .... | 100 | 1 | 14 | .... | .... | .... |
| White-throated Sparrow | 92 | 30 | .... | 95 | 75 | 15 | .... | 5 | 1 | 108 | 56 |
| Fox Sparrow | 3 | 1 | .... | .... | 1 | 12 | .... | .... | .... | 3 | 21 |
| Swamp Sparrow | 56 | .... | .... | 1 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 51 | .... |
| Song Sparrow | 97 | 14 | .... | 23 | 3 | 15 | 17 | 8 | 3 | 55 | 92 |

| TABLE II | Nashville Dec. 26, 1938 | Clarksville Dec. 18 | Springfield Jan. 1, 1939 | Norris Dec. 24 | Knoxville Dec. 26 | Gt. Smoky Park Dec. 18 | Henderson Dec. 24 | Corinth, Miss. Jan. 1 | Tupelo, Miss. Dec. 25 and *26 | Memphis Dec. 24 | Rosedale, Miss. Dec. 19 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Number of species | 70 | 59 | 46 | 34 | 36 | 51 | 30 | 49 | 26 | 64 | 69 |
| **Number of individuals** | 10,310 | 2020 | 731 | 649 | 1138 | 1904 | 686 | 892 | 319 | 7159 | 14,201 |
| **Number of observers** | 21 | 14 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 20 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 20 | 3 |
| **Loon** | 1 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Pied-billed Grebe | 1 | 1 | .... | .... | 1 | .... | .... | 8 | 2 | .... | 26 |
| Double-crested Cormorant | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 6 | 230 |
| Great Blue Heron | 1 | .... | .... | .... | 1 | .... | .... | .... | .... | 3 | 2 |
| Canada Goose | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Common **Mallard** | 18 | 2 | .... | 76 | .... | .... | 10 | .... | .... | 2 | 2500 |
| **Black** Duck | 8 | 3 | .... | 175 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 37 |
| Gadwall | 3 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 250 |
| Baldpate | .... | 3 | .... | 2 | .... | .... | .... | .... | 3 | .... | 5 |
| **Green-winged Teal** | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 23 |
| Blue-winged Teal | .... | .... | .... | 6 | .... | .... | .... | 1 | .... | .... | .... |
| **Shoveller** | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1500 |
| Wood Duck | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 4 | 19 |
| Ring-necked Duck | .... | 75 | .... | 9 | .... | .... | .... | .... | 3 | .... | 200 |
| **Canvas-back** | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 2 | .... | .... | .... |
| Lesser Scaup | 73 | 1 | .... | 44 | .... | .... | 20 | 10 | 150 | 20 | 3000 |
| American Golden-eye | 3 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 2 | .... | .... |
| **Buffle-head** | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 2 | .... | .... | .... |
| Old-squaw | 1 | .... | .... | 1 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| **Ruddy Duck** | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 18 |
| Hooded Merganser | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 2 | .... | 2 | .... | 31 |
| **Red-breasted Merganser** | .. | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 2 | .... | .... |
| Turkey Vulture | .... | 7 | 1 | .... | .... | 1 | 15 | 12 | 4 | 8 | 9 |
| Black Vulture | 7 | 7 | .... | .... | .... | 2 | .... | .... | .... | .... | 7 |
| **Sharp-shinned Hawk** | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 2 |
| Cooper's Hawk | 4 | 1 | .... | .... | .... | 1 | .... | 1 | .... | .... | 1 |
| Red-tailed Hawk | 1 | 2 | 3 | 1 | .... | 3 | 3 | 1 | .... | 2 | 4 |
| Red-shouldered Hawk | .... | 2 | 3 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 2 | 7 | 5 |
| Golden Eagle | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Marsh Hawk | 2 | 1 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1 | .... | .... | 3 |
| Duck Hawk | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1 | .... |
| Sparrow Hawk | 24 | 3 | 5 | 1 | .... | 2 | 1 | .... | 2 | 12 | 6 |
| Ruffed Grouse | .... | .... | .... | ... | .... | 23 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Bob-white | 78 | 8 | .... | .... | 6 | .... | 20 | 4 | .... | 62 | 14 |
| Eastern Turkey | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Coot | 3 | 6 | .... | .... | 3 | .... | .... | 2 | 4 | .... | 2000 |
| Killdeer | 41 | 30 | 2 | .... | 4 | 25 | .... | 4 | 23 | 254 | 135 |
| American Woodcock | 1 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Wilson's Snipe | 6 | .... | 1 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 16 | 13 | 6 |
| Ring-billed Gull | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 60 | .... |
| Mourning Dove | 103 | 13 | 4 | 3 | 23 | 2 | 2 | 250 | 1 | 26 | 6 |
| Screech Owl | 2 | 1 | .... | .... | 1 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Great Horned Owl | 2 | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Barred Owl | 2 | 1 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1 | .... | 1 | 2 |
| Barn Owl | 1 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Belted Kingfisher | 8 | 1 | .... | 1 | 1 | 5 | 5 | 4 | .... | 5 | 2 |
| Flicker | 33 | 26 | 9 | 7 | 8 | .... | 4 | 6 | *1 | 131 | 116 |
| Pileated Woodpecker | 7 | 6 | 2 | .... | .... | 5 | .... | 4 | .... | 1 | 1 |
| Red-bellied Woodpecker | 28 | 10 | 6 | .... | 1 | 1 | 2 | 6 | .... | 67 | 6 |
| Red-headed Woodpecker | .... | 2 | .... | 1 | .... | 4 | 1 | .... | *1 | 11 | 2 |
| Yellow-bellied Sapsucker | 3 | 6 | 1 | .... | .... | .... | .... | 7 | .... | 19 | 5 |
| Hairy Woodpecker | 7 | 4 | 1 | 1 | .... | 7 | .... | .... | .... | 13 | 3 |
| Downy Woodpecker | 29 | 7 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 13 | 4 | 4 | .... | 43 | 8 |
| Phoebe | 7 | 1 | 1 | .... | .... | 2 | .... | .... | .... | 3 | 2 |
| Prairie Horned Lark | 37 | 210 | 73 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Blue Jay | 19 | 25 | 7 | .... | 12 | 9 | 7 | 30 | *10 | 416 | 14 |
| Raven | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 3 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Crow | 120 | 153 | 30 | 3 | 116 | 480 | 6 | .... | 3 | 50 | 1 |
| Chickadees* | 94 | 20 | 10 | 30 | 24 | 150 | 8 | 10 | .... | 136 | 31 |
| Tufted Titmouse | .61 | 23 | 7 | .... | 15 | 41 | 12 | 40 | *5 | 112 | 9 |
| White-breasted Nuthatch | 2 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2 | .... | 6 | .... | 4 | .... |
| Red-breasted Nuthatch | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 7 | .... | .... | .... | 6 | .... |
| Brown Creeper | 9 | 2 | 1 | .... | .... | 10 | .... | 1 | .... | 18 | 3 |
| Winter Wren | 1 | 9 | 4 | .... | 2 | 11 | .... | 3 | .... | 9 | 5 |
| Bewick's Wren | 7 | 6 | 1 | .... | 2 | .... | 2 | .... | .... | 1 | .... |

| TABLE II—Cont. | Nashville Dec. 26, 1938 | Clarksville Dec. 18 | Springfield Jan. 1, 1939 | Norris Dec. 24 | Knoxville Dec. 26 | Gt. Smoky Park Dec. 18 | Henderson Dec. 24 | Corinth, Miss. Jan. 1 | Tupelo, Miss. Dec. 25 and *26 | Memphis Dec. 24 | Rosedale, Miss. Dec. 19 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Carolina Wren | 53 | 21 | 10 | 11 | 20 | 36 | 1 | 6 | *1 | 128 | 14 |
| **House Wren** | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 2 |
| Mockingbird | 112 | 16 | 8 | 2 | 12 | 1 | 4 | 4 | *10 | 107 | 9 |
| Brown Thrasher | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1 | .... | .... | 4 | .... | 11 | .... |
| Robin | 33 | .... | 3 | .... | 1 | 8 | 8 | 6 | .... | 169 | 93 |
| Hermit Thrush | 8 | 2 | 4 | .... | 1 | 25 | 2 | 20 | .... | 59 | 3 |
| Bluebird | 90 | 37 | 10 | 2 | 4 | 32 | 18 | 15 | .... | 130 | 29 |
| Golden-crowned Kinglet | 16 | 8 | 2 | 30 | 12 | 64 | .... | 20 | .... | 76 | 62 |
| Ruby-crowned Kinglet | 1 | .... | .... | .... | .... | 2 | .... | 1 | .... | 17 | 9 |
| American Pipit | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1 | 6 | 58 |
| Cedar Waxwing | .... | 10 | 9 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 93 | .... |
| Shrikes* | 2 | .... | 4 | .... | .... | 2 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 37 | 44 |
| Starling | 6000 | 262 | 52 | 1 | 272 | 10 | .... | 18 | 10 | 66 | 308 |
| Myrtle Warbler | 3 | 9 | 3 | 6 | 2 | .... | .... | .... | .... | 92 | 122 |
| Yellow Palm Warbler | .... | .... | 3 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| English Sparrow | 150 | 228 | 30 | 3 | 103 | 24 | 200 | .... | *200 | com. | 141 |
| Meadowlark | 67 | 121 | 54 | 3 | 16 | 1 | 20 | 50 | 27 | 374 | 406 |
| Red-wing | 3 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 28 | 800 |
| Rusty Blackbird | 100 | .... | 130 | .... | .... | .... | .... | 50 | 40 | .... | .... |
| Bronzed Grackle* | 425 | 6 | .... | .... | .... | 25 | .... | 25 | *20 | 402 | 1300 |
| Cowbird | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1 | 400 |
| Cardinal | 370 | 60 | 13 | 10 | 56 | 44 | 28 | 20 | *12 | 447 | 62 |
| Purple Finch | 49 | 25 | 10 | .... | .... | 3 | .... | .... | .... | 25 | .... |
| Goldfinch | 73 | 52 | 11 | 32 | 11 | 64 | .... | 15 | .... | 64 | 69 |
| Towhee | 148 | 42 | 15 | 1 | 28 | 2 | .... | 15 | .... | 77 | 7 |
| Savannah Sparrow | 9 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 18 | 10 | 62 | 18 |
| Juncos* | 850 | 124 | 124 | 35 | 164 | 400 | 30 | 40 | .... | 1027 | 173 |
| Tree Sparrow | 2 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Chipping Sparrow | 1 | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Field Sparrow | 215 | 45 | 13 | 75 | 46 | 81 | 100 | 10 | 3 | 364 | .... |
| White-crowned Sparrow | 158 | 27 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 3 | 11 | .... |
| White-throated Sparrow | 220 | 127 | 15 | 40 | 149 | 131 | 150 | 75 | *12 | 1319 | 291 |
| Fox Sparrow | 47 | 8 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 20 | .... | 125 | 19 |
| Swamp Sparrow | 157 | 53 | 20 | 2 | .... | 6 | .... | 15 | .... | 157 | 7 |
| Song Sparrow | 90 | 53 | 7 | 30 | 14 | 130 | .... | 20 | 2 | 159 | 106 |

**Species shown in bold-face type were not recorded in Tennessee.**

*SPECIAL NOTES: Chickadees,—Carolina Chickadees only at every locality except at the Great Smoky Mts. Park where both species were definitely observed but not listed separately and at Johnson City where 2 Black-capped and 6 Carolina Chickadees were recorded.—Shrikes,—are all Migrant Shrikes except at Rosedale and Moselle, Miss. and probably Memphis where both the Migrant and the Loggerhead Shrikes are found in winter. The latter sub-species has been collected at Rosedale.—Bronzed Grackle,—should be Purple Grackle for all East Tenn. censuses.—Juncos,—should be Slate-colored Juncos at all localities except in the Great Smoky Mts. Park where Carolina Juncos were also recorded.

*OTHER NOTES ARE INCLUDED IN CENSUS DATA ON FOLLOWING PAGES.

'The Lakes of Tennessee', Bulletin No. 11 (July, 1937) of the Tennessee State Planning Commission is obtainable from the Commission at Nashville. The cost is fifty cents. The bulletin is a mimeographed list, by counties, of water bodies of an acre or more in extent and commonly considered as lakes in their respective communities. A key map of the state shows location by county numbers. The list gives the acreage, ownership, specific location, and general use of each lake, and acreage and use of adjacent public land, if any. No descriptive information is given. Appendix C is a bibliography of published matter relating to the lakes and contains numerous references to *The Migrant*. These latter principally concern birdlife at Reelfoot, Radnor, Mud, Norris and other lakes.

WHITE BLUFF:—Jan. 8, 8:30 A.M. to 4 P.M. clear until 3 P.M., then part cloudy and light wind; unusually warm for the season. Followed as near as possible the routes of the three preceding annual studies. Same observers and methods. A small lake had been formed by the completion of the dam since last year's census and the ducks were seen thereon. A falcon was not identified positively. A flock of Black Vultures was seen late in the afternoon not far from the park.—A. F. Ganier, Harry Monk, Jesse M. Shaver (chairman), Harry Vaughn, and George Woodring.——COVINGTON:—Dec. 26, 8-9 A.M., 11 A.M.—4:30 P.M.; cloudy and rain; temp. 43. Southwest of town, 5 miles on foot and 8 by car.—Alice Smith (Memphis.)—HUMBOLDT: Dec. 25—Albert J. Marsh.
——LEWISBURG:—Jan. 8, 9 A.M. to 5 P.M.; fair; temp. 35-65. On foot over about 175 acres of farm land. Bronzed Grackles seen in large numbers enroute to farm but not found there.—Mrs. F. C. Laskey and Mrs. Sam H. Rogers.——PULASKI:—Jan. 5, 9:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M.; fair; temp. 40-60. On foot over about 75 acres of farm land, 10 miles north of town.—Mrs. Sam H. Rogers and Mr. and Mrs. Porter Stone.——MURFREESBORO:—Dec. 25, 8 A.M. to 5 P.M.; fair; P.M. cloudy; temp. 30-55. Environs and Lillard Woods. 10 miles by auto, 6 on foot. An albino Field Sparrow was seen.—Prof. George Davis and Henry Todd, Jr.——JOHNSON CITY:—Dec. 29, 9 A.M. to 2 P.M.; part cloudy; calm; temp. 20. Llewellyn Wood, Cox's Lake, Boone's Creek, Picken's Bridge.—Robt. B. Lyle and Bruce P. Tyler.——GREENEVILLE:—Dec. 20, 8 A.M. to 5 P.M.; alternating clear and cloudy; light wind; temp. 24-45. Reed and Ross farms along Roaring Fork Creek, and Bays Mt. 6 miles on foot, 12 in auto. Also,—Dec. 18, a Palm Warbler; Dec. 19, a Belted Kingfisher.—Willie Ruth Reed.——RUGBY:—Jan. 8, 9:45 A.M. to 4 P.M.; clear; light wind; temp. 50. From Rugby Road to Rugby, 7 miles by auto, frequent stops for short hikes, and 4 miles on foot around Rugby and in White Oak Creek basin. Elevation of Rugby is about 1500 feet above sea level. The Screech Owl, Bewick's Wren, and Fox Sparrow are species seen here regularly but could not be found on the census. On the 6th, 11 Towhees were around the Walton feeding station at one time.—Mrs. W. T. Walton (Rugby) and Charles Baird, Misses Mary McGriff and Willie Ruth Reed, and Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Walker (Knoxville Chapter).——RARA AVIS, MISS.:—Dec 25, 1 to 5 P.M.; overcast; temp. 52. Old road from Tremont to Rara Avis to Ala. line, 11 miles by auto with short side trips on foot (2 groups), principally into the Bull Mountain Creek bottoms. Large wooded bottoms and fields; moderately rolling country with only scattered pines.—Austin Burdick, Jr. and Ben Coffey (Memphis) and Harwell Dabbs (Tupelo).——MOSELLE, MISS.:—Dec. 23, 7:30 A.M. to 4 P.M.; cloudy; wind, gentle, temp. 58-70. Leaf River swamps, by flat fields, thru pine woods, and over hilly terrain. 7 miles on foot, 27 miles in car. Observers together. Species not tabulated (but included in totals) are: Brown-headed Nuthatch, 5; Blue-headed Vireo, 3; Pine Warbler, 18; Md. Yellow-throat, 1 (thru 8x glasses at 25 feet); and Vesper Sparrow, 52.—Marie Grayson and Arneda Long.

NASHVILLE:—Dec. 26, 6 A.M. to 5 P.M.; .5 inch of rain, steady all day; calm; temp. 40-45. Environs south, west, and east, including Radnor Lake, Overton Knobs, Franklin and Hardscuffle Roads, Hillsboro and Hobbs

Roads, Warner Parks, Bellemeade, Westmeade; River Road; Knapp Farm. Observers in 10 groups. Total, 43 group-hours, 26 miles. On Dec. 25 a Ruddy Duck and 2 Ring-necked Ducks were seen on Radnor Lake. The Chipping Sparrow was recorded by Shaver and the Woodcock and Tree Sparrows by Abernathy, Robins, and Simpson.—B. H. Abernathy, J. B. Calhoun, Alfred Clebsch, Jr., A. F. Ganier, Wayland Hayes, Conrad Jamison, Amelia R. Laskey, Arthur McMurray, G. R. Mayfield, H. C. Monk, C. E. Pearson, John Prichard, Leo Rippy, Jr., J. A. Robins, Vernon Sharp, Jr., J. M. Shaver, Wm. Simpson, Val Solyom, Jamie Ross Tippens, H. S. Vaughn, and George B. Woodring——CLARKSVILLE:—Dec. 18, 8:30 A.M. to 4 P.M.; fair; wind, slight; temp. 38-42. Barred Owl at 9 P.M. North central portion of Montgomery County and Cumberland River bottom above Cunningham bridge and 'Elder Woods'. Three groups. See also 'The Season'.—Lamar Armstrong, M. S. Carter, Alfred Clebsch, Sr. and Jr., Clarence Collier, Jr., Reams Goodloe, Mrs. J. Y. Hutchison, G. R. Mayfield, Mrs. W. M. Noland, Dr and Mrs. Pickering, Leo Rippy, Jr., J. A. Robins, and Wm. Simpson.——SPRINGFIELD:—Jan. 1, 8:30 A.M. to 3 P.M.; fair; wind, fresh; temp. 32-45. Environs, including Perry Park, small marsh 6 miles north and big marsh. The Yellow Palm Warblers were flitting about in the willows at the small marsh and constitute our first mid-winter record.—A. F. Ganier, Leo Rippy, Jr., G. R. Mayfield, and H. C. Monk.——NORRIS:—Dec. 24, 9 A.M. to 4 P.M.; fair; wind, brisk; temp. 35-45.Cove Creek Lake, Norris, and respective vicinities; 6 miles on foot.—Charles O. Baird, Jr. and W. M. Walker, Jr.——KNOXVILLE:—Dec. 26, 8 A.M. to 4 P.M.; rain; temp. 40. U. T. Farm, Andrew Jackson Lake, Woodlawn Cemetery and Riverside Drive. Three groups; 3 miles on foot, 23 by auto. Observations chiefly from autos because of rain.—Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Johnson, Mrs. Henry Meyer, and W. M. Walker. Also Jan. 1,—fair, temp. 35; H. P. Ijams, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Johnson, Mrs. Frank Leonhard, Prof. and Mrs. Henry Meyer, and S. A. Ogden. 34 species, 700 individuals. Recorded Jan. 1 but not on Dec. 26,—Red-tailed Hawk, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 1; Pileated Woodpecker, 2; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 2; Phoebe, 1; Brown Creeper, 1; Purple Finch, 2.——GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK:—Dec. 18, 7 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.; party cloudy; in lowlands, ground bare, temp. 35-50; in mountains, ground covered 1-3 inches of snow, temp. 28-35. Area of 15 miles diameter, same as last year, centered on Bull Head and including Mt. LeConte, Greenbriar Cove, Elkmont, and the state divide from Siler's Bald to Charlie's Bunion,—also Gatlinburg and Pigeon Forge, just outside park. Altitude range, 1200 to 6600 feet. Observers in 7 groups. Total, 60 group-hours, 24 miles afoot (3 groups), 177 miles by car and afoot. —The Golden Eagle was observed by Ogden at 75 to 100 yards and about 60 feet in the air. The Eagle, Black Vulture, Red-headed Woodpecker, and Chipping Sparrow were first winter records for these species in the Park. An absence of Pine Siskins and Red Crossbills was anticipated in view of a relatively light crop of conifer seed, while the scarcity of Robins, Purple Finches, and Red-breasted Nuthatches proved to be of particular interest.. —Charles O. Baird, Jr., Mary Ruth Chiles, Brockway Crouch, John J. Hay, Earl O. Henry, H. P. Ijams, Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Leonhard, Henry Meyer, S. A. Ogden, Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Walker, Jr., and Dorothy Williams (Knoxville Chapter); Carlos C. Campbell, Willis

King, Bonnie Tom Robinson, R. H. Sloan, Jr., and Arthur Stupka, Park Naturalist.——HENDERSON:—Dec. 24, 7 A.M. to 1. P.M.; heavy fog responsible for light list, clearing after 10 A.M. Town, east to edges of S. Forked Deer River bottom, chiefly around Lake Placid in Chickasaw Forest, 8 miles west. —J. R. Endsley, assisted by Kermit Nichols.——CORINTH, MISS.:—Jan. 1, 1 P.M. to 5 P.M.; clear; light wind; temp. 45. Petty bottom, 6 miles west of town, and Liddon Lake.—Benj. R. Warriner and Elgin Wright.——TUPELO, MISS.:—Dec. 25, 9 A.M. to 11 A.M.; cloudy; temp. 42-48. Gum Pond and just N. E. of same, and U. S. Fish Hatchery.—Austin Burdick, Jr., Ben Coffey, and Harwell Dabbs. Dec. 27, 10 A.M. to 1:30 P.M., windy and cold. Same area.—Dudley Carr, Harwell Dabbs, and Paul Eason. Additional species seen Dec. 27 indicated thus, '*'. Totals for Dec. 25 only and include 1 Mockingbird and 1 Blue Jay seen that day compared with 10 each on Dec. 27. Limited to areas of special interest,—enroute to Rara Avis, Dec. 25, and poor weather, Dec. 27.——MEMPHIS:—Dec. 24, 7 A.M. to 5 P.M.; heavy fog first 2 hours, fair visibility at 40 feet, overcast all day; temp. 33-52. Territory of 1935 and 1936 well covered, although only a partial count made when fog lifted and birds were most numerous, due to schedule—Austin Burdick, Jr., Fred Carney, Ben Coffey, Harold Elphingstone, Fred Fiedler, Jr., Bill Fischer, Mrs. George W. Govert, Robt. Hovis, Dr. and Mrs. Louis Leroy, Hugh McCain, Franklin McCamey, Jr., Fordyce Mitchel, C. E. Moore, John Pond, Bob Shaffer, Billy Walker, Ben Welch, Eldon White and Neal Wyatt.——ROSEDALE, MISS.:— Dec. 19, 7:30 A.M. to 5 P.M.; clear; light wind; temp. 33-51-46. Rosedale to Legion Lake, to Lake Bolivar and return. Observers together, 3 miles afoot, 42 by auto.—Mr. and Mrs. M. G. Vaiden and Van B. Chaney.

## CHAPTER NEWS

Notifications of the following meeting dates have been received. KNOXVILLE:—Field trips—Apr. 16, Hickory Valley; April 30, annual spring census, Island Home; May 21, Cade's Cove; June 18, Andrews Bald and Clingman's Dome. A night meeting is scheduled for June 7 and is in charge of Miss Willie Ruth Reed. (A very ambitious and tempting schedule—Editor.) Miss Mary Ruth Chiles, 1817 Highland., is sec.-treas. MEMPHIS:—Meetings are held at the Pink Palace Museum and for April are scheduled for the 10th and 24th. The annual spring field day has been set for May 7 and, as usual, at Lakeview on the Miss. line. Mrs. T. I. Klyce, Raleigh, Tenn. is sec'y. NASHVILLE:—Meetings are held on the second and fourth Monday nights of each month, at the Social-Religious Building on the Peabody campus. Dr. Olin S. Pettingill will be the speaker on April 12. The spring field day has been set for May 14. Leo Rippy, Jr., 515 Orient Circle, is sec'y. BLUE GRASS CHAPTER:—All T. O. S. members in the 'Blue Grass' area and adjacent sections are urged to attend the annual spring field day of the chapter. The date has not been set but will probably be Apr. 30. Write the secretary, Mrs. Sam H. Rogers, 315 Flower St., Pulaski, for further details.

# THE SEASON

**MEMPHIS AREA:—Xmas Census lists were low this season in species recorded. Possibly this was due to unfavorable weather on census days. At Moon Lake, Miss., one factor may have been that the waterfowl hunting season extended, for the first time recently, a few days past the census date. However, no shooting was noted there that day.——Unfortunately most of our Lakeview habitues ceased visiting this locality all at the same time and we have no notes from there. We have some interesting local lists made by Walker and Welch, Burdick, and others but we will have to postpone comment to the next issue, due to other duties.——Dr. C. L. Baker reported the first Purple Martin at his box on Mar. 1, a day earlier than last year.—BEN COFFEY, Memphis.**

CORINTH CHAT:—In March, 1933 I found a small flock (5 or 6) of Brown-headed Nuthatches in a small pine grove 5 miles southeast of town. I had been on the lookout for the 'Brown-heads' for several years, but without success. On this particular day I was near the pines and said to myself that I would go over to the place and find Brown-headed Nuthatches. I went as straight to the tree where the little fellows were feeding as I would have gone if I had known in advance that they were there. After that occasion I found them in the same pine grove a number of times each year until 1938. They remained in the same spot the year round and apparently nested there each season. I have never been able to find this species anywhere else in the Corinth area although I have hunted repeatedly. Last year this group disappeared and none have been seen since then. On Feb. 5 of this year I went there again, determined to make one more search. Again I failed. But there was a pleasant compensation. Three Red-breasted Nuthatches were feeding in the selfsame trees; they were the first of the kind I had ever seen. The Red-breasted is a rarity here, for this species does not often come this far south. A week later they were still there, but in another week were gone.——On Feb. 26 a Brown Thrasher sang in the tip-top of a large water oak on Washington Street. I observed two others nearby in a small tree. Soon they joined the one in the water oak and in a short time all three were singing. Then to my utter surprise and delight two others came and in a few minutes five Brown Thrashers were trying to outdo one another in a veritable bird choir. One Brown Thrasher alone is capable of filling a whole neighborhood with song incomparable. Five singing at one time gave me a thrill I have never experienced before in Birddom.——This spring I observed in a number of places that quite a variety of birds will flock to a burned-off grass field. Early in March at a particular one of five or six acres of meadow-land I found Sparrows in abundance,—White-throats, Chipping, Field, Swamp, Song, and Juncos. In addition, there were many Doves, Robins, Rusty Blackbirds, and Titmice. I passed the spot several times in the following two weeks and the birds were still there. Yesterday (March 20) a dozen Vesper Sparrows had joined the other species. The Vesper is rarely seen here, and I can recall only two other times that I have found it. In March two years ago, three were seen bathing in a little pool in the grass near a roadside; and again three or four flew up from a bare cotton patch near the road. It is said that the Vesper is the best named of all the birds,—because of his sweet song after sunset when all others of the bird tribe have gone to roost.——BENJ. R. WARRINER, Corinth, Miss.

CLARKSVILLE AREA:—Our winter has been mild and heavy rainfall in the early part of February brought the Cumberland River to flood stage where it remained most of that month. During a trip on the swollen waters a flight of about 300 ducks broken up in flocks of varying size, gave proof of the increase in the wild fowl population. Wood Ducks extended their stay in this section into late December, records on the Cumberland River being made Dec. 18 and 28. A small group of Canada Geese, about 12 in number, spent the winter here and we have scattered records of the Great Blue Heron. But during the entire season, including the high water stage, we did not see any Herring Gulls. The only report of this species came from Hopkinsville, Ky., 30 miles north of us, where a single individual, wearing a Biological Survey band, was blinded by light and captured at a filling station during the stormy night preceding Thanksgiving Day. Failure to read the band number in full prevented the determination of the bird's origin.—Tree Sparrows also did not show up this year in spite of several check-ups on their favorite haunts.—Our principal finds were among the raptores. During our mid-winter census a pair of Red-shouldered Hawks were observed screaming and swooping at a perching Red-tailed Hawk. On Jan. 2 the writer observed a splendid Bald Eagle whose age can be given as four years according to the plumage description of Mr. A. C. Bent. Some brownish streaks were still showing plainly in the crown of the white head. On Jan. 28 we listed the two hundredth species for our county when two Rough-legged Hawks gave us a wonderful show of their remarkable flying powers. A week later Dr. & Mrs. Pickering saw these birds (we assume it was the same pair) at Dunbar's Cave and had a view of them at close range while in flight and perching. Marsh Hawks have been unusually scarce here.——A new banding sub-station under Mrs. Peay produced the first Brown Thrasher record for this spring on Feb. 15. Vesper Sparrows returned on the 18th. Horned Larks were rather plentiful during the winter and recently a single and a pair were found near the northern edge of our county. When flushed and chased by a dog they flew close to the ground. The arrival of the Purple Martins was recorded on Mar. 8. The familiar call was heard from high in the sky and presently a bird spiralled in graceful flight down to, presumably, his old home. By night three birds had shown up and during the next two weeks at least one was seen each day. Any time now the whole colony should come in.——ALFRED CLEBSCH, Clarksville.

NASHVILLE AREA:—The winter just past was notable in many respects and was unusually mild. Mean temperatures for the three winter months averaged 43.4, comparable with a normal of 40.4 degrees. As a result, the winter bird population apparently shifted northward. Prairie Horned Larks were quite scarce and where found, the flocks averaged small. Marsh

Hawks were quite rare though this may be chargeable to the scarcity of field mice. Robins, Starlings, and Cedar Waxwings, which ordinarily return in large numbers about New Year's, to feed upon the usually abundant hackberries, remained southward because of the failure that had occurred in that crop. Had there been a great deal of snow and ice, many birds would have starved the past winter due to a lack of hackberries. The freeze of last spring also ruined the poison-ivy berry crop and as a result Myrtle Warblers have been rare instead of common as in normal winters. Doves moved northward and flocks of 57, 22 and 18 were noted around the holidays.——The Christmas census, taken Dec. 26, topped past records with a total of 70 species in spite of a rainy, muddy day. John Calhoun, who had come down from the University of Virginia to participate as usual, led a group that brought in the best list. Among the notable finds were first Xmas records of the Barn Owl, Common Loon, Woodcock, and Tree Sparrow; also, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, first since 1916; Red-wing, first since 1929; and Old-squaw first since 1930.——A Barn Owl was shot near Appleton, Lawrence Co.,, on Dec. 15, which together with the Xmas bird at Nashville, constitute our first mid-winter records.——Woodcocks remained, due to the mild winter, as evidenced by one being seen on Dec. 4 near Glendale Park, Nashville, by Clare Lovett, one shot and slightly wounded on Dec. 14 near Springfield, and one seen on Hobbs Lane, Nashville, by Wm. Simpson on Dec. 17 and again on Dec. 26. The Dec. 14 bird was cared for by Mrs. Laskey and released when well, on Dec. 16, in Warner Park.——Mrs. Laskey reports two very early Chipping Sparrows which on Feb. 19 went to roost together in an arborvitae at her window and two or three were seen daily thereafter about her grounds. On Feb. 22 one was trapped and found to have been banded in 1936 by her. Their first song was heard on Mar. 1. On Feb. 22 she trapped a Lincoln's Sparrow.——A Golden Eagle was trapped by a farmer near Gallatin, on Dec. 13 and was kept caged until secured by staff members of the State Dept. of Fish and Game. It was later shipped to the Great Smokies National Park, banded and released there on Jan. 11 by Mr. Arthur Stupka, Park Naturalist. We hope it will elect to remain and keep company with the other Park eagles.——Rusty Blackbirds, not often recorded here, were seen in the river bottoms on Dec. 26 (flock of about 100) and by the writer near Springfield on Jan. 1 and 7. At the latter place they were seen feeding in a wet swamp. Near Clarksville, Mr. Clebsch recently reported them in a similar location.——The 53-acre lake in Montgomery Bell State Park, near White Bluff, was found to have been nearly filled when visited on Jan. 8 and 3 Ring-necked Ducks, a Wilson's Snipe and a Kingfisher, had already established themselves. It will be interesting to note the increase in water birds there in the years to come.——On March 19, the writer visited the Bee Creek "gulf", near Caney Fork in White Co., in search of Duck Hawks but saw none. A Red-tailed Hawk was observed there, carrying nest material in it's bill to a nesting ledge in a high cliff. A guide told of having seen a white-headed (Bald) Eagle at this point a few years before. (Bald Eagles were reported at nearby Scott's Pinnacle several years ago.) At dusk a flock of 12 Turkey Vultures were observed to have gone to roost in a dead tree on Goforth Point.——At Mullin's Cove, Marion Co., on March 26, a further survey of the cliff escarpments were made and resulted in the finding of a second eyrie of the Duck Hawk. Walking back over the ridge with Bill McNabb, local warden, we flushed single Ruffed Grouse at four locations. Mr. McNabb reported that he had seen both species of eagles in the Cove within recent months,—the Bald only a week previous. At another location nearby, an eagle is reported as making daily forays and threats to pigs and poultry.——ALBERT F. GANIER, 2112 Woodlawn Drive, Nashville.

KNOXVILLE AREA:—The Osprey has been a fairly frequent visitor in the vicinity of Knoxville for a couple of years but late last fall 5 were reported by Mrs. William Johnson to have been seen circling over the Tennessee River near the city waterworks.——Reports from individuals, club members, and newspaper stories about the Screech Owl indicate this little owl is either becoming more plentiful, or has adopted new methods of getting publicity.——The winter season has been somewhat different this year with Purple Finch and Goldfinch far less numerous than usual. Cedar Waxwings evidently have been very localized as they were reported from only one locality. One or more male Red-wings were winter residents or very early migrants because we have records of single birds from Fountain City for Jan. 12. (Ogden), Feb. 10 (Hofferbert), and Feb. 17 (Mrs. Templeton.)——About Feb. 10 an immature Bald Eagle was shot at Riverdale. It was rescued from the river and brought to Knoxville for treatment and subsequent release, but gangrene developed in the wing and the bird was killed and mounted by Mr. Ogden.——The Barred Owl has been a steady visitor at Island Home from Feb. 1 to date (Mar. 23) and we expect it to remain in the vicinity for another month.——There has been a wide difference of opinion concerning the status of ducks on Norris Lake. Trent reports large flocks of Lesser Scaup and Black Duck wintering near the Loyston area while from the more inaccessible places the numbers reported are few, with some 8 or 10 species represented. Below Norris Dam the writer found a flock averaging 25 Mallards and 40 Lesser Scaup. Cove Creek Lake presents a different picture. The species varied from two to eight and the individuals from 50 to 350. Black Ducks always comprised 60 to 75 percent of the ducks present with Scaups the next in rank. Those ducks that presumably wintered here evidently started north about Mar. 15. We expect an influx of water birds about the middle of April, because in the past we generally find ducks and shorebirds during the regular spring migration.——Spring arrivals to date have been rather erratic.——W. M. WALKER, Knoxville.

NORTHEAST TENNESSEE:—The first Robins arrived at Johnson City Jan. 7. Their plumage was very clean proving that they were from the south. Their numbers increased slowly but by Feb. 22 they were coming thru in large flocks. My own Robins,—that is, those that breed in my yard—arrived early in February. The delayed spring migration might have foretold the late spring. The early fall migration should have foretold a severe autumn, but such was not the case. Although we had snow and cold weather in November, the winter temperature has been better than the average and less variable. The migrants arriving from the south so far are Robins, Duck Hawks (not yet nesting), and a few Phoebes. We anticipate a wild rush when migrations start in earnest.——BRUCE P. TYLER and ROBT. B. LYLE

# THE ROUND TABLE

RARE SHOREBIRDS AT MUD LAKE:—In *The Migrant* for September, 1938 (pp. 68-69) Wendell Whittemore reported a single Black-bellied Plover seen Sept. 25 at Mud Lake, Tenn.-Miss., our first record for the Memphis area altho we have been visiting this likely territory for over eight years . This species then became almost a fixture for the season; evidently it was the same small group on each occasion. None were seen on Oct. 6 or on Oct. 9 but on the 16th a flock of about ten large shorebirds took flight from the far or north shore after we had waded about half-way across. At the distance of about 60 yards we could not see the black axillars but their size and call-notes were distinctive and checked with observations made a week later. The flock on that date was flushed repeatedly as they did not leave the lake, and were approached to as close as 40 feet. On Oct. 30 the lake had shrunk to a few shallow pools but the flock was still present. No trips have been made there since.——On the 9th I saw my first Golden Plovers (*Pluvialis dominica dominica*),—two individuals in fall plumage but distinctly bearing a golden 'cast' over all and lacking the black axillars of the other large plovers. We approached them several times to within 20 feet and once they obligingly flew to the other end of the lake to enable Mrs. Coffey and Miss Alice Smith to make their acquaintance. This is the first Tennessee record for this species. There is one former record for this area, made by John Pond and party, on April 11, 1936 (*The Migrant*, 1936, p. 43). At that time a single bird was found along the meadow-like slope of the levee, a short distance south of the Tennessee line.——Just before the two Golden Plovers were noticed in the mixed flock of 'peeps' and Lesser Yellow-legs, a slim, light gray bird was noticed and readily identified as a Wilson's Phalarope in fall plumage. This is the fourth record for this area, and the second fall record. The other three records were also across the line in Mississippi while the Mud Lake records can be credited to both states as it is located on the line.——On Oct. 23, several very light gray birds were seen among the 'peeps' probing along the north shore. Smaller than a Sanderling (not yet recorded here) and with long dark bills, slightly curved downward at the tip, the birds were recognized to be Red-backed Sandpipers (*Pelidna alpina sakhalina*). They were stalked several times to allow each of our party to see them well but sometime later when we had the shorebirds 'cornered' at the east end of the lake, we were able to get within 20 feet of them and to see that there was more dark gray than we thought, especially underneath on the sides. Here we counted twelve individuals. The first published record for Tennessee is by Dr. Earl O. Henry (*The Migrant*, 1937, p. 40) of one individual at Lake Andrew Jackson near Knoxville, Oct. 4, 1936. I feel positive also that an individual of this species was seen at Mud Lake under the same conditions on Aug. 23, 1936. This latter bird was flushed repeatedly as McCamey and the writer ploughed back and forth thru the mud for some time in an effort to identify it. At the first glance we thought we had spotted a Sanderling but closer and more thorough examinations disproved that belief and we spent some time with it in the expectation of identifying it at some time in the future. The large number of other shorebirds (see The Migrant, 1936, p. 67) among which it fed and took flight, was somewhat of a handicap. A few weeks later Whittemore and the writer saw two Red-backed Sandpipers at Gulfport, Miss., but we were so close to the birds (6 to 7 feet) and the other species so different that I did not associate them with the 'unknown' at that time.——A Dowitcher (sub-species?) was seen Oct. 6. (Pond and Simpson) and three Long-billed (?) Dowitchers on Oct. 16 also proved interesting. There are three previous Tennessee records (*The Migrant*, 1936, p. 68)——The writer was accompanied by John Pond on all dates mentioned herewith and at other times by Mrs. Coffey, Miss Smith, Whittemore, Walker, and Welch.—BEN COFFEY, Memphis.

FLORIDA GALLINULE IN NASHVILLE AREA:—It has been my privilege to band three individuals of this species that have been caught in East Nashville and released uninjured. The first bird flew into the lighted window of a house, the impact against the glass causing it to fall to the porch floor where it was caught and kept overnight on May 17, 1937. The second bird also flew against window panes,—at a filling station near the Cumberland River on September 21, 1938. The third individual was caught in a garage where it evidently had gone to roost, on the morning of October 10, 1938. Searching through the literature, I have been unable to find any records of this species for the state except from Reelfoot Lake.—AMELIA R. LASKEY, Nashville.

EDITOR'S NOTE:—Since this species is common at Reelfoot Lake it should be expected to be so at Memphis, during migration, at least. However it is rarely reported. The only record that comes to mind is that of a bird caught in a Memphis yard and given to the local zoo. There are several records of the Purple Gallinule, a more southern species, all given in past notes on 'The Season', and there have been a few instances where we were unable to approach gallinules closely enough to record the species.

SANDHILL CRANES IN CUMBERLAND CO.,—On March 13, 1939, I had the unusual experience of observing and positively identifying 13 of these birds (*Grus canadensis tabida*) near Crab Orchard, which village is about 45 miles west of Knoxville. At the time, I was returning from an early morning trip to a nearby mountain when, as I skirted an open marshy tract of land by walking through the adjacent woods, I saw three of the Cranes together at less than 100 feet away and identified them through my glasses. The time was about 7:30 A.M. and the morning was clear. On coming out of the woods to get a closer look at them, they looked at me, then ran a few paces before taking flight, crying in a weird way I had never heard before as they flew away. When they arose, I saw others from nearly a quarter of a mile off, arise also. All were very much scattered except the first three which I had found feeding together. They arose 500 feet or so and divided into two flocks; then circled for several minutes as though to get their bearings, finally congregated and then headed north.—PAUL ADAMS Crab Orchard.

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NOTE—The only previous recent record of this species is one reported from Chattanooga on June 1, 1935, by Prof. W. K. Butts, for which see *The Migrant* 1936 p. 24.—EDITOR.

A BARRED OWL EXPERIENCE:—To me what was one of the most interesting experiences that I ever had in connection with bird banding occurred several years ago at our place on the Tennessee River. The tenant's son had a line of traps (for fur-bearers) on the bluff and in 'running the line' he would always find the remains of a rabbit at one particular trap. On learning of this I suggested that he leave the remains there and set several traps around the spot. The next morning he found that he had captured a magnificent Barred Owl. An examination of the bird disclosed that one foot was almost severed. It was removed by cutting a couple of tendons and a band was placed on the good leg.——Now, here is the interesting part. When I freed him he flew directly to an oak limb about 50 yards away and attempted to alight with both feet. The result was ludicrous, but he managed to right himself on the limb. To see what would happen I flushed him again. This time he made another 50-yard flight and then a graceful 'one-point landing' on the good foot. To be certain that the single foot landing was not accidental, I flushed him again, and with exactly the same result. On my next approach he flew away through the dense woods and out of my life.——Because of such a handicap this was one banded bird from which I expected to receive a 'recovery' record. But as yet—five years later—I have had no report of him. Presumably alive, how he has managed to survive minus one powerful talon is a matter for conjecture. Perhaps he quickly found it just as easy to grab things with only one foot as he did to perch with it after the first attempt.—H. P. IJAMS, Knoxville.

WINTER RECORDS OF THE RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET FOR THE NASHVILLE AREA:—The discovery of a Ruby-crowned Kinglet on our Christmas Census recalls several other winter records of this specie. A study of census reports in *The Migrant* reveals this kinglet is rarer at Nashville than at any other state locality reporting over a period of years. The following personal records may therefore be of interest.——One of these birds was found on Feb. 15, 1925, in a woods on the western edge of the city. The day was a sunny preview of spring, with many species singing, and the kinglet was revealed by a complete song, perfect in every way.——On Jan. 22, 1933, a Ruby-crowned Kinglet was found on Centennial Park hill, in the thicket-grown hackberry woods. In the next three weeks nine visits to this area resulted in three more records,—namely, Jan. 28, Feb. 5 and 14. On two of these occasions the bird was found in arborvitae and evergreen privet, but at other times it ranged freely through bare deciduous growth.——In the following winter a kinglet appeared in the same locality. It was first observed on Nov. 28, 1933, and was present on five of thirteen succeeding visits to the hill,—namely, on December 3, 8, 10, 12, and 21. It could not be found thereafter.——Only one Ruby-crowned Kinglet was observed on each of the dates listed. No difficulty was experienced in identifying the bird as it usually frequented bushes and low trees and was so unsuspicious that a close approach was always possible. The bird's behavior was entirely normal. It exhibited the nervous energy characteristic of the species, moving continually through the bushes and trees. As it moved along, the kinglet pecked constantly at the branches and twigs, seeming to glean an almost invisible prey from them. When followed it was found to cover a considerable range, and this probably explains why it was not listed on every trip. In spite of its ceaseless activity the bird was quite inconspicuous, and was usually located by its wren-like scolding note. This call, and a fine, weak chip, were the only sounds it uttered.——HARRY C. MONK, Nashville.

NOTES FROM PULASKI:—Brown Creepers, often seen here in town and always on my trips into the country, have been conspicuous by their absence this winter. In fact, I have seen only one this season. Prairie Horned Larks have not been seen on the farms where I usually find them each winter. On the other hand, Robins have been more abundant in the country through February and March than I have ever before seen them. In town I have seen only a few thus far. Bronzed Grackles are about the only birds I have been able to band and as the weather becomes warmer they are dropping off.—SARAH OGILVIE ROGERS, Pulaski.

WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH NESTS IN NASHVILLE AREA:—Although the bird is fairly common throughout the Nashville region, the nest of the White-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis carolinensis*) is very rarely found, even by those who spend a great deal of time afield. In eight seasons the writer saw only two nests (and heard of perhaps three others). It is desired to record the first two nests here. The data may perhaps be of interest to present workers in the vicinity of Nashville.

The first nest was found by Harry Monk and the writer on a wooded bluff about seventeen miles northwest of Nashville, in eastern Cheatham County. The birds had utilized a knothole about 35 feet up in the bole of a living oak which grew at the edge of the bluff. They were feeding young large enough to be quite noisy on the date of discovery, April 19, 1931. The excellent nest site was not re-used that year. When examined the next year it was found to contain flying squirrels. However, a pair of Nuthatches were in the vicinity.

On April 30, 1932, in Nashville's Shelby Park, the second nesting of this species was observed. The adults were making frequent trips with food to a very large knothole (at least 2x5 inches) about thirty-five feet up in the main trunk of a Mississippi hackberry. These young apparently were very recently hatched, for although the writer observed food being taken into the hole several times, the cries of the young could not be heard. This location was in an open wood on a hilltop. It was never revisited.—COMPTON CROOK, The Episcopal Academy, Overbrook, Philadelphia, Pa.

## RECENT BIRD LITERATURE

THE BIRD LIFE OF LOUISIANA, by Harry C. Oberholser (Bulletin No. 28—The Department of Conservation, New Orleans, La., 1938; pp. 1-834, 45 plates; secured at a nominal price of $1.00).

Dr. Oberholser, of the U. S. Bureau of Biological Survey, in cooperation with the Louisiana Department of Conservation has given to the bird-minded citizens of Louisiana and neighboring states an authoritative reference publication of inestimable value. Its varied terrain gives to Louisana an unusual advantage for the support of abundant bird life and its location is strategic in reference to the great Mississippi Valley. Every bird student in this area should welcome this volume which is much more complete and based on a more complete reference to available records than any other preceding book on the birds of Louisiana. It consists principally of an annotated list of 429 bird forms, embracing 680 pages, and a bibliography of 477 titles, accompanied by a very complete index. Much data is here published for the first time. Besides the detailed information on distribution in Louisiana and migration and nesting dates, much interesting information is given on haunts and habits and, to some extent, on field marks. However, the book is valuable chiefly as a particularly timely reference work, supplementing one's own knowledge of how to recognize each species or a good handbook for that purpose.—BRUCE P. TYLER.

A FIELD GUIDE TO THE BIRDS, by Roger Tory Peterson (Houghton Mifflin Company, March, 1939; pp. 1-180, 40 plates; price $2.75).

This is a revised and enlarged edition of the well-nigh indispensable identification handbook of all amateur bird students residing east of the Rockies. Four new plates and numerous text drawings have been added. The new plates include two of shore-birds at rest, one of sea-birds, and one of rails, gallinules, etc. The original edition had to be used in connection with a local list and while this is still advisable, the revised edition has, to our mind, been much improved by the addition of notes on range. Concise description of songs and calls are also new aids. This handbook has been so widely used since original publication in 1934 that a description will not be given but we urge those that do not have a copy to secure one *and use it.* When we really learn to distinguish the different kinds of birds that frequent our feeding shelves, our yards, parks, and woods, we will get more interest out of our 'bird-watching.' Until we do so we are not really seeing our native birds. Birds that have been around all the while appear in our consciousness for the first time when we start trying to recognize the different species. 'Peterson' is now the complete identification handbook for beginner and veteran alike. Copies can be secured from The Methodist Publishing House at the address given on the inside front cover page. This new, improved edition appears just at the season we all begin to take more interest in nature.—BEN COFFEY.

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# THE MIGRANT

A QUARTERLY JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE STUDY OF TENNESSEE BIRDS.

PUBLISHED BY THE TENNESSEE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY.
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Items for publication should be sent to the Editor.

*"The simple truth about birds is interesting enough,
it is not necessary to go beyond it."*

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Our first year under the new Constitution draws to a close and finds the Society incorporated, one of the principal objects of the revision as noted previously in these pages (Mayfield, 1938, p. 27). The annual meeting will be held in conjunction with the Nashville field day, May 14. All should plan to attend if possible as these annual spring field days are memorable occasions.

A list of officers, directors, and members was published in the June, 1938 issue. Following the annual meeting a revised list of officers and directors and a list of new members will be published each June. A considerable increase in membership was made last year and there are still others who would like to develope a latent interest in birds and would find the fellowship an appreciated stimulus. We know our secretary-treasurer has been very busy in recent months and any help we can give him will be appreciated. This especially applies in the matter of prompt renewals. What are practically two or three sets of membership and mailing lists must be kept. Some discretion must be used in mailing out each March issue so as to not omit those that we can confidently list as 'once a member, always a member'.

Volume I of *The Migrant* which was issued in mimeographed form, will be reprinted if there is sufficient demand. The present size will be used so that it can be bound in with succeeding volumes. We urge our members to keep their copies for reference, preferably to have them bound so as to avoid loss. If you do not keep them, please do not throw away but give them to a school or the like or return to Mr. Clebsch. Volume I reprints will cost fifty cents. Please drop a card to Mr. Clebsch if you want a copy. Local chapters please advise us soon.

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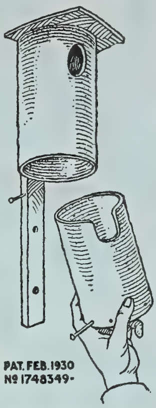

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THE VALUE OF HAWKS:—'Enter Hawk—Exit Mouse' by Earle L. Poole and Richard H. Pough is an interesting circular (No. 24) of the National Association of Audubon Societies. The following review of it is from *The Auk*: July, 1937, page 418. "The economic value of hawks and owls, in particular the Rough-legged Hawk, is emphasized in the control of meadow mice. Specifically, the city of Reading, Pa., in 1928, acquired some 3500 acres of land for an impounding dam for water supply, and in the following years planted on the area two and a half million seedling pines, allowing the area to remain undisturbed. Rabbits, pheasants and meadow mice increased abundantly, and ere long the hawk population also increased, especially in the colder months. In 1934-35 many Rough-legged Hawks were killed there by a local deputy. An examination of the stomachs of these birds showed that every one contained meadow mice exclusively. Soon after, an appalling loss amounting to some forty per cent of young pines was reported, due to girdling by mice which were favored by the dense cover. These and other facts make it clear that killing of hawks and owls is a result of pure stupidity and willful ignoring of their demonstrated value as natural controls of these rodents."

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## TRAMPING WITH 'THE BIRD MAN'

BY BRUCE P. TYLER

### I. THE BIRD MAN

An early spring morning finds the ornithologist roaming alone among the cedars of Boone's Creek near where it pours its waters into the Watauga River. The trees are full of Robins, Cedar Waxwings, Titmice, and Warblers. The sun is very bright, the wind cold and bracing. The sunny nooks along the stream are comfortably inviting. Slowly the ornithologist wends his way down-stream and finally settles himself on a huge rock at the mouth of the creek, feeding his soul on the magnificent scenery that the river affords. His serenity is disturbed only by the gusts of wind ruffling the smooth waters. A pebble rolling down the bank behind the dreamer announces the arrival of a small boy of about twelve summers, who advances and sits respectfully silent nearby. The ornithologist engages the boy in conversation which leads to the subject of the river birds. Soon the bright face of the boy turns with beaming eyes to the ornithologist and, full of joyous enthusiasm, he exclaims, "Oh! You are the Bird Man!"

### II. THE SPY OR THE LAW

The Bird Man loves to wander over the Boone's Creek farm of Uncle Dave. The cedar thicket along the creek and the patch of swampy land sometimes hold rare birds. Thus early one morning, the towering sycamores, matted cedars, underbrush, and swamp grass are given careful inspection. Aided by binoculars, the Bird Man searches diligently for his feathered friends, all unmindful of the new tenant who, from the humble home, is observing him as intently as he hunts for glimpses of his birds. Many and vague are the thoughts of the tenant. The Bird Man is soon lost in the creek thickets, to be seen no more, but the tenant continues to marvel, and some days later, confides to a mutual friend that the 'Law' was abroad, that his house had been carefully watched by an officer with field glasses and he feared some trouble as a result. His fears are soon allayed by the rollicking laughter of the friend, who tells him, "Oh, that was the Bird Man searching out strange birds in the tree tops—he didn't know that you were within a thousand miles of him."

JUL 24 1939

## III. THE MOONSHINERS

Near our cities often may be found suburban sections that harbor the riffraff of society,—those who live by pilfering and by illegitimate traffic in 'white mule' or other contraband. Close inspection will often reveal social conditions that might be expected in such remote districts. Through such a setting one cold winter morning, strides the Bird Man, out of his usual habitat, but seeking the Hermit Thrush which frequents the nearby thickets year after year. The Bird Man is cold to the marrow and walks rapidly, passing close to a shack, on through an old garden, over a piece of high ground, then into a lovely dell, preparatory to climbing a wooded ridge where dwells the Hermit Thrush. As he passes the shack he notices hurried glances from behind the rough window curtains and, as soon as he crosses the first high ground and is out of sight of the shack, he hears the excited voices of men and dogs on his trail. The Bird Man continues to walk briskly and into the cover of the wooded ridge. Yes, there come the men and dogs hurrying on his trail, likely imagining that their cache of liquor is in danger. Now, a pack of hound dogs are not dangerous, and decreasingly so as they get away from home. Knowing this full well, the Bird Man chooses to meet them in the open beyond the woodland and possibly beyond their cache. Proceeding to the open plateau above the woods, he awaits, in full view of the margin of the woods, the arrival of the 'delegation.' The yelping of the dogs and the calls of the men are heard approaching nearer and nearer. When they come to the top of the ridge and are in full view of the Bird Man, idling in the open field, the dogs are called in hastily and none dare break the cover of the friendly woodland. Convinced that their booty is safe, they turn homeward and the Bird Man returns to his quest of the Hermit Thrush.

## IV. THE SLEET STORM ON BEECH MOUNTAIN

How lovely are the mountains when winter rules! Many lovers of the out-of-doors prefer the sunny days of spring to go afield and, to the uninitiated, a bird walk in winter is quite out of the question, but not so to the Bird Man! To him the seasons bring, each for itself, a new beauty and interest. The falling of the leaves, the Indian summer days, the snow and sleet of the winter solstice call but for proper clothing and a heart that answers to the call of the forest. Early one January, the Bird Man finds his face turned toward the mountains bordering the Tennessee-North Carolina state line, and chooses as his goal for the day, Beech Mountain, a 5,400 foot peak, just over the state line in North Carolina. Leaving his car at Banner Elk, he faces the mountain and its five-mile trail to the top. The day is rather warm and a storm is brewing. How sweet is the mountain air in the nostrils of those who love the woods! The birds, sensing the approaching storm, seek cover and few are seen, but on goes the Bird Man, full of the joy of the forest. Up and ever upward the trail leads. Nearing the top he advances in the lee of the mountain, almost unmindful of the fury of the approaching storm. No birds are to be seen save one lonely hawk perched high in a tree top amid cover so thick that it could not be identified, but it meant company for the Bird Man. Ever leisurely on he goes. It is getting colder—the heavy coat, too warm on the steep ascent, is now very comforting. The wind is rising and moans ceaselessly in the tree tops which reach above the mountain's crest, but below, in the lee of the mountain, all is calm. On and on, the top is not far distant. The wind is approaching hurricane velocity and it grows colder. The sky is dark and threatening. Sometimes the clouds cover the mountain top and wrap all in mist and fog, then they lift and reveal billowy storm clouds rolling over Grandfather Mountain enroute to the Beech. Thus comes the Bird Man to the mountain top. Before him a vista of marvelous beauty opens across the valley to Grandfather Mountain, which now is lost in the fog and mist and again is clear and beautiful, viewed through breaks in the clouds as they scud by. The Bird Man stands spellbound, viewing the beautiful valley and the storm-lashed mountain tops. The wind is so strong that footing is retained with difficulty—in fact, had the wind been in reverse direction, it would have been unsafe to stand on the top lest one be swept by the fury of the wind over the cliff to disaster below. How many years of such life it must have taken to awaken in the heart of the Psalmist the thought which burst forth in his later years, "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills from whence cometh my strength." Even so today, muses the Bird Man. Now, it is beginning to rain—each drop that strikes his face stings deeply, but still he stands on the mountain top. Now the clouds surround him, then lift to reveal the storm over the valley below. How feeble are words to portray such scenes! It is getting still colder, now it is sleeting. Even the heavy coat fails to turn the driven blasts, and reluctantly the Bird Man turns his steps backward toward the valley. But not before he seeks shelter behind a massive beech and gains renewed vigor and warmth from a thermos of hot coffee and a light lunch, necessary equipment for all trips.

The rocks, the grass, the trees, the Bird Man, become covered with ice from the sleet storm. Ever colder and colder blows the gale, and ever closer and closer comes the valley and shelter and warmth. The men loitering in the general store looked up quite surprised as in strides the ice-covered stranger with a hearty "Howdy, men!"

## V. THE SPIRIT OF THE BIRDS AND THE FLOWERS

The Bird Man is often impressed with the idea that there is something about the birds and flowers that the mind of man does not generally recognize. Some few years ago he read from the *War Cry* an article by William Booth, entitled "My Idea of Heaven," in which he said, "Strange as it may seem, the animals were there." And, why not? Why do men imagine that there is no spirit in the bird or in the flower? In his delightful book, "Birds in the Wilderness," George Miksch Sutton in his closing chapter sings of the spirit of the old apple tree.

The Bird Man knows that his saddle horse has a tender conscience and a sense of humor. He knows that his dog recognizes the difference between right and wrong. He knows that his flower garden produces marvels of beauty on particular occasions, and he knows that the birds revel in the ecstasy of love for their mates and in devotion to their nestlings.

The American Indian dreams of the happy hunting ground as the home of the departed. The Jew dreams of heaven as a place of eternal rest in Abraham's bosom or as a place with golden streets and mansions of precious stones, but not so the Bird Man. He dreams of eternity among the peaceful valleys, the green pastures, by the still waters, among the forest trees lit with eternal brightness, and among all the birds and the flowers. He has heard it quoted from Confucian lore, "That whereby man differs from the lower animals is little. Most people throw it away."

The Hindu will not stop the life of anything, being unwilling to destroy what he cannot create. Would that our hunters might not destroy our wild life, often for the love only of killing, to the end that our abode here may more perfectly reflect the glory that is to be.

JOHNSON CITY, June, 1939.

# NESTING OF THE GREAT HORNED OWL

BY H. O. TODD, JR.

The Great Horned Owl lays its eggs earlier than any Tennessee species. and since very little has been published on its nesting in the state, the following notes may be of interest. This species is a rare breeding bird in Rutherford County where I live, and where most of my bird work has been done. In some twenty years of active effort I have only looked into five occupied nests of this bird, and one of these was in Van Buren county.

This Van Buren county nest has been mentioned in *The Migrant*, 1936, p. 47. In company with A. F. Ganier I visited on March 8, 1936, an old eagle nest which he had found the preceeding fall. It was found to contain two eggs of the Great Horned Owl. The nest was inaccessible and the eggs were removed by using a small dip net at the end of a long cane. They were quite cold, and on further examination found to contain dead embryos at the point of hatching. It was concluded that the owl had been killed, leaving the eggs to chill.

On April 24, 1936, two young birds were found in an old squirrel bed about twenty feet above the ground. This was in a second-growth oak and hickory woods near Murfreesboro. There were no large trees with suitable hollows in this woods, and the birds were evidently forced to use this somewhat unusual site for want of a better one. The amount of refuse on the ground beneath this nest clearly proved the young had been reared in it The birds were almost ready to fly and a week later they were gone.

A heavily timbered section northeast of Murfreesboro was worked for three years in the hope of finding a nest of this owl. The trees were very large and many were dead and contained hollows. I knew the birds were nesting in the woods for two or three were flushed on each visit. I could find plenty of pellets under some trees but never a nest until the afternoon of February 21, 1938, when I was about ready to give up and go home. On reaching the edge of the woods about two hundred yards from a dwelling, I saw a large oak with the top blown out and a large hole in the side. As it was one of the very few in the whole woods that had not been climbed I went over to it and rapped on the side. An owl flushed from the cavity and I lost no time in climbing to the hole, using a tall cedar close by for the ascent. On looking into the hollow three young owls and one egg were discovered. The nestlings were of varying ages, the smallest apparently just hatched. It was evident that four eggs had been laid at intervals of several days each, and that incubation had begun with the laying of the first egg, this being a well known habit of the species. I left the nest quickly as a rain began and I knew the old bird would be anxious to return. There was no food in the nest.

This nest was revisited two weeks later. The owl flushed as before and returned to the tree while I was looking into the nest, but did not alight there. The nest held almost a whole rabbit. A third visit was made on March 14, when the young were banded. At that time a dead Crow lay in the nest. It seemed that the parent owl had taken revenge on the Crow because these birds gave chase every time it was flushed. An old farmer who lived close by in sight of the nest tree reported he could see the Crows there scolding the owl as it brooded its young. The Great Horned Owl is a well known enemy of Crows and it was interesting to know that it begins to feed on them while yet in the nest.——This site was again visited on January 1, 1939, but the cavity was full of leaves and so unsuited to the owl.

Another woods located about a mile from the above mentioned tract contained a nesting hollow in which four young Barred Owls had been found on May 30, 1936. This was in a large black oak, about thirty-five feet up. The tree was too large to be easily climbed, but a tall cedar growing close by enabled me to get above the nest hole and see into it. On climbing this cedar, January 1, 1939, a Great Horned Owl was discovered in the cavity. I waved my hand and the bird flushed, revealing at least one egg. On January 8 I returned with Prof. George Davis and Erma Herrod, an expert climber. Herrod went up the cedar and again flushed the owl. I then climbed to the nest cavity and found two eggs resting on quite a few owl feathers. These were removed for photographing. The owl returned while we were at the tree, but soon left with the Crows giving chase as usual.

On April 10, 1938, while walking through a large wooded section known as 'Lillard Woods' I heard young Great Horned Owls screaming. Hurrying to the point from which the sounds came I found three young birds in an oak. They were being attacked by Crows and were hard put to keep balanced on their perches even though the two parents were present and defending their brood. The Crows left as I came up but the two old owls remained, seemingly indifferent to my presence. The sight of five of these large owls together at one time was an experience quite new to me. Next year on January 14 an owl was flushed from a hollow in these woods but there were no eggs. Perhaps I was too early for this particular individual.

These observations have established a new early nesting date for this species in Middle Tennessee and present the first evidence that the Great Horned Owl ever lays more than two eggs at a sitting in this state. I hope that others who have information on rare breeding birds will make it available to all of us through the pages of *The Migrant*.

MURFREESBORO, June, 1939.

# "CRANETOWN" AT REELFOOT LAKE

BY FRANK A. PITELKA

INTRODUCTION. Reelfoot, the earthquake lake in northwestern Tennessee, offers many opportunities to the midwestern ornithologist who seeks adventure, yet cannot journey too far from home. The region of Reelfoot Lake supports a decidedly varied bird life, since habitats such as river and lake margins, marshes, cypress swamps, mature floodplain forest, and climax beech-maple forest can be visited within a few miles of each other—not to mention "man-made" habitats. The chief attraction, however, is the expanse of aquatic and semi-aquatic habitats and the water and marsh birds which congregate there. Observations of these have been made particularly by Ganier (2, 3, see appended list of references) and to a lesser extent by Crook (1). Recently Maslowski (4) published a short account, accompanied by some excellent photographs, of a visit to "Cranetown." Ganier's paper treating the water birds in particular (3) includes a map and excellent description of the area.

Interest in Reelfoot Lake, other than that of biologists, who study its rich and varied plant and animal life, is centered on its history, and the region is endowed with numerous legends such as the bear-hunting exploits of David Crockett in the early 19th century. The lake is of comparatively recent origin, having been formed by the New Madrid earthquake in 1811-12. It is 12 miles long and 5 miles across at the widest point, and its unusual shape is due to the fact that it occupies an old bed of the Mississippi River ("ox-bow"), the river having moved to the west as a result of the earthquake. Especially in the center and southern end, hundreds of stumps stand just above or just below the water level—remains of trees submerged and killed when the lake was formed. Reelfoot Lake, considering its expanse, is very shallow, being over ten feet deep in but a few places; in addition to this, seasonal fluctuations in water level have resulted in the development of an abundant hydrophytic vegetation of the lake and its floodplain.

Such a region is not only attractive to the ornithologist, but also to the ecologist who is interested in succession and the dynamics of plant and animal communities, and for more than ten years a group of zoologists from the University of Illinois have spent each Easter vacation in field studies at Reelfoot Lake. In the spring of 1938, the writer had the opportunity to join the group under the leadership of Dr. V. E. Shelford and Dr. S. C. Kendeigh. The trip proved particularly profitable because of the remarkable advance of the season, two to three weeks ahead of the normal advance, so that the landscape presented an early summer aspect at that early date. Without a doubt, the highlight of the trip from the ornithologist's point of view was the visit to the heronry.

"CRANETOWN." The heronry, known among the natives as "Cranetown," is located at the (north) end of Big Ronaldson Slough on the west side of Reelfoot Lake along which the zone of cypress swamp is particularly broad. It is well secluded and a newcomer finds a native guide almost necessary. On the morning of April 17, 1938, our group was led over surrounding cultivated fields into the wooded swamp, and after following a tortuous path for perhaps half an hour, climbing several high deer fences and wading through several feet of water for most of the way, we were rewarded with the unmistakable clamor so characteristic of heron and egret congregations. As we came closer, our progress became slower; for wading through one-to-four-foot depths of water necessitated increasing care to avoid holes and submerged trunks and branches and to climb over numerous floating logs that were thickly carpeted with plant life, particularly mosses (*Climacium Kindbergii*, a "tree moss," and *Mnium* spp, were most abundant). Against the beauty of the feathery cypress foliage and the fresh leaves of the intermixed river maples (*Acer saccharinum*), egrets and herons arose from hidden perches or flew overhead as they commuted between nesting and feeding grounds. In such a setting plus the warmth of the day—not to mention the important point that mosquitoes, flies, and gnats were totally absent—our enjoyment of the spectacle was complete.

Entering "Cranetown" proper and in the midst of occasional but heavy showers of "whitewash," we were able to notice that nesting was remarkably advanced. Needless to say, during most of our stay, the birds squawked and screamed—milled about in much confusion—and general bedlam prevailed. The heronry covers an area about one-quarter mile in length and about 400-500 feet in width (Ganier). Several hundred nests of American Egrets, Ward's Herons (southern form of the Great Blue Heron), and Doubled-crested Cormorants were observed in the tops of partly defoliated cypress trees. Some trees had as many as twenty to twenty-five nests each. All three species were incubating eggs, and some nests of the Heron contained young. The Egret was twice as numerous as the Ward's Heron, while the Cormorant fell in between these numbers; our estimate listed approximately 300 American Egrets, 200 Double-crested Cormorants, and 150 Ward's Herons. About 25 Anhingas (or Water-turkeys) were observed flying about the colony, and two Black-crowned Night Herons were also seen. Both of these species, particularly the latter, no doubt become more numerous later in the spring since both are known to nest in "Cranetown" in addition to those species mentioned previously.

Grackles moved about in the colony, probably stealing fragments of food left by the nesting birds. Black Vultures soared overhead, very likely feeding on dead and deserted young. Several dead young of the Ward's Heron were found below the trees. Other than these nesting species of the colony and the additional ones attracted by it, the bird life of the cypress swamp included the Wood Duck, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Sycamore Warbler, Red-eyed and Yellow-throated Vireos, Carolina Wren, and Pileated and Red-bellied Woodpeckers. The Prothonotary Warbler was especially abundant and is perhaps the most conspicuous of small passerine birds in the wooded swamps about Reelfoot Lake.

In addition to the birds inhabiting "Cranetown," other species of the family Ardeidae frequent Reelfoot Lake. Yellow-crowned Night Herons and Little Blue Herons occasionally nest about Reelfoot. The latter become numerous during late summer along with the appearance of flocks of the Wood Ibis from the South. The Green Heron, American Bittern, and Least Bittern are also summer residents and complete this remarkable list.

"Cranetown" is perhaps one of the largest inland heronries and adds considerably to the other undoubted avifaunal attractions of Reelfoot Lake. At the height of the nesting season, according to recent estimates (3), about 1,500 birds representing five species are present. These together with the presence of nesting Wood Ducks, Hooded Mergansers, Bald Eagles, Duck Hawks, and other larger species, the abundance of bird life in general, and the stretches of virgin cypress swamp and luxuriant floodplain forest create a distinctly primeval atmosphere—the sort of atmosphere that has become more and more distant from our reach.

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NOTE: This article was published in The Audubon Bulletin, published by the Illinois Audubon Society, April, 1939, pages 9-12. With the author's kind permission it is reproduced herein in full. It is not only an interesting account of a visit to Reelfoot but it should also make us appreciate what an unique naturalists' paradise we have in our own state. All members should visit Reelfoot at least once and the more ambitious might plan a trip into the heronry described, generally called 'Big Cranetown' by past students of the area.—EDITOR.

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# IN THE FRONT YARD OF MEMPHIS

BY MRS. BEN B. COFFEY, JR.

Riverside Drive runs for about a mile at the foot of the Memphis Bluffs. Between the northern half and Wolf River lies a narrow public parking area for downtown Memphis. Across the Wolf is Mud Island with a heavy growth of willows. At the foot of Beale the island ends and the Mississippi River itself laps at the base of the southern half of the Drive. While parking this spring I have paused for a short time each day to note what birds were present and often have driven the length of the Drive in the hope of adding something of particular interest. Between the foot of the island and the mouth of the sewer at Talbot Avenue is a favored area for ducks, gulls, and terns in season.

On April 16 the first Prothonotary Warbler was heard singing on Mud Island and has been heard there daily since then. Occasionally I would see one dash out over the water. Dr. Louis Leroy, in whose boat a pair of these birds nested during the past two years (*The Migrant*, June, 1938, pp. 21-22) says that a pair came into the boat several times but did not build a nest, although suitable places were fixed for them and the window always left open.

On April 18 a drive down Riverside Drive was rewarded by seeing a Barn Swallow skimming over the water near the street. Lesser Scaup were seen from April 19 until June 6. The largest flock was one of 70 (May 6). On May 12, during the Cotton Carnival, a skeet shooting match was held at the small park at the foot of Beale Ave. Six Scaup were feeding about 50 yards away and the firing of the guns did not disturb them at all. Several times they were seen in the harbor feeding close to the boats and to the shore, not more than 15 feet from the parked cars. On May 29, only a single pair was seen and on June 6 only a male remained.

Maryland Yellow-throats were heard singing on April 21. Other birds heard frequently on the Island were: Baltimore Oriole, Warbling Vireo, Wood Thrush, Catbird, Cardinal, White-eyed Vireo, Red-wing, Carolina Chickadee, and Tufted Titmouse. Only once did I see Red-wings join the Grackles (which were seen almost every day) on the barges and cobblestones in search for food. I noticed one Grackle flying low over the water and picking up bits of floating bread. When the water was high very large trees would be seen floating down the river. At one time I counted 40 Grackles in a willow tree which was rapidly being carried downstream. Crows also enjoyed free rides on the floating trees. Six Crows were noted April 28 at the foot of Beale Avenue hovering and picking up food from the water.

On April 28, I noticed a large bird out in the middle of the river channel. It was diving often and moving downstream with the swift current. Looking through 7x binoculars I could easily identify it as a Common Loon. I drove slowly down the Boulevard keeping pace with it for about a quarter mile and watching it closely. While returning to the parking lot I found one Herring Gull and two Bonaparte's Gulls feeding at the sewer at the foot of Talbot street. These Gulls, all immature birds, were observed from a distance of 50 feet. One Rough-winged Swallow and two Purple Martins were also seen there. One adult Ring-billed Gull was seen on May 15, a very late date for this species.

Although Least Terns were found at Lakeview, Miss. on the T. O. S. Field Day, May 7, I did not see them on the River until May 12 when 20 were counted. They have been seen every day since this date. 19 Black Terns were seen on May 15, and 3 on May 17. On May 22, I noticed that a large flock of Terns were feeding where the muddier waters of Wolf River meet the Mississippi. I drove down to this point and counted 55 Common, 40 Least, and 12 Black Terns. No observations were made from this date until May 29, when only Least Terns were present. On June 12, Frank McCamey reported seeing six Black Terns and the usual number of Least Terns feeding off the point of Mud Island.

MEMPHIS, June, 1939.

# A THIRTY CENT INVESTMENT

By Benj. R. Warriner

The Baltimore Oriole is a rare summer resident at Corinth. In fact, I have no record of the bird's presence here after May 1. This scarcity adds a degree of interest to a bird which is surpassed in beauty by no other kind. Generally in April of each year, the result of constant searching, I do find one or two transients and these brief glimpses have constituted my only acquaintance with the Baltimore.

Early on the morning of last April 20 I came unexpectedly upon a male Baltimore beside a country road eight miles from town. The bird apparently was busily engaged in building a nest in a very small tree in a farmyard. A sling-shot was lodged in the tree a foot or so beneath the nest. This was to me positive evidence that residing nearby was a boy who was an enemy of the birds. Doubtless unable to hit his target, he had, in his impatience, thrown the whole works at it. Sure enough, I saw farther back in the yard a woman and three small boys, all engaged in a farm chore. This was a perfect opportunity for me to put in a good word for the cause of bird preservation. I walked within twenty feet of the tree while the Baltimore paid not the slightest attention to me. He was too intent on arranging the details of the almost completed nest,.

I had a pleasant visit with the boys and their mother. Lectured them vigorously, though as kindly as I could, on the wrong involved in killing the birds. A search of my pockets brought out three dimes, all the money I had. I gave each boy a coin and exacted from each a promise that no harm should come to the exquisite gold and black bird that had come from the Far South to weave his intricate nest near their very doorstep. It required only a little understanding for each of them to appreciate that indeed the Baltimore was a distinguished visitor. When I left I told the boys that I would be coming back soon to see them, the bird, and the nest, and that there would be other dimes.

When I passed again close to the tree the Baltimore cocked his impudent head and, — laughed! Laughed in tone so strident it would have been most unbecoming in any bird I know, to say nothing of one named after a distinguished Lord. The nest was only a caterpillar nest, shaped and suspended from the tree almost exactly like that of the oriole. The bird had been burying his head deep into it and gorging his hungry belly on the delicious, fuzzy tidbits. His hunger and his sense of humor satiated, his vanity more lordish than even, he high-tailed it across the pasture towards the north.

A few days later, somewhat in the mood of the criminal who is drawn back to the scene of his crime, I passed that way again. The little tree, leafless when I first saw it, was now a mass of new spring foliage, but utterly birdless. The boys had retrieved their sling-shot.

Corinth, Miss., June, 1939.

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To our fellow member, Mr. R. A. Wilson of Nashville, we offer our congratulations upon his approaching birthday, July 8, on which day he will have reached the age of 88 years. For nearly 30 years Mr. Wilson has conducted the *Fin, Fur and Feathers* column in the *Nashville Banner* and therein has written many delightful stories of birds and the out-of-doors.

# THE SEASON

MEMPHIS AREA:—Except for the Spring Field Day the writer has been able to be out but twice since the Xmas censuses. On March 19, at Lakeview, we recorded the American Bittern and several early species. On April 16, a short trip to Overton Park was made and a good list, including many warblers, was recorded. The most uncommon species noted was the Worm-eating Warbler,—one individual being studied at close range by all of our party. Several first arrivals were recorded on the home grounds including the Grasshopper Sparrow on April 2, a very early date among the few records we have of that species in spring and, as always, the Warbling Vireo. A male Mourning Warbler was a late transient on May 25 and was the first and only one of the species to be banded by the writer. On May 1, a Veery sang nearby and on May 3, one appeared in the yard. A Painted Bunting was present in the back lot from May 2 to about May 15. It was an immature male and had not only the usual song of the species here but a louder one resembling that of the Louisiana Water-thrush, altho shorter and more abrupt.——At Lakeview on April 2, Whittemore and Pond recorded 3 Golden-eyes, 1 Sora, 1 Solitary Sandpiper, and 1 Least Sandpiper. Frequent rains had filled most of the shallow 'pits' but, as in recent years, shorebirds were uncommon this spring.——On the Spring Field Day, May 7, we were honored by the presence of Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Ganier, Roger Ganier, Dr. G. R. Mayfield and H. C. Monk of Nashville, and Mr. and Mrs. M. G. Vaiden and party of Rosedale, Miss. Approximately 125 species were recorded but the number of individuals was very low. The wooded bottomlands were completely flooded; thus restricting our morning trip. Two Mississippi Kites were seen. In the afternoon at the 'highway pit', nests of King Rail, Pied-billed Grebe, and Least Bittern, and newly hatched young of the first two species were viewed by the party.—BEN B. COFFEY, JR., Memphis.

CORINTH CHAT:——In the song of the Black-throated Green Warbler there are two or three striking Chickadee notes. The Swamp Sparrow sings like the Field, though decidedly weaker. April 26, a Purple Gallinule appeared at Liddon's Lake,—a rare and beautiful visitor. My first Black-poll came April 29. Daily until May 22, his kind were plentiful. A close-up view of the Black-poll shows the bird to be a neat and beautifully marked, diminutive cavalier. Another two thousand miles to go does not seem to hurry his leisurely journey. May 12 I found a large flock of Bobolinks in a broad low field of green oats and hairy vetch. Again, May 22, in the same place, there was a large flock composed almost entirely of female birds. In the first lot males outnumbered the females ten to one. The brightest spot of the season was an Oven-bird, extremely rare in this section. Late in the afternoon of May 21, following heavy rain, the timid sprite fed under a patch of thick shrubs in my backyard. In a little while he ventured into the open and paid no attention to me. A fragrant breath of the wild woods, the little fellow seemed incongruous in a spot so crowded. At last startled, he flew rapidly away and missed only by inches the eaves and roof of the house.——BENJ. R. WARRINER, Corinth, Miss.

CLARKSVILLE AREA:—At last, fully four weeks after their scouts had taken up their stations, the Purple Martins arrived here on April 5. A sharp disturbance in the weather accompanied or caused their coming. The same day the Chimney Swifts, whose advance guards had been seen for a week, multiplied in numbers. It is interesting to note that in the four years past, for which we have records, these two species have shown up here on earlier dates than those published in 1936 for Nashville, 40 miles southeast of us. The variance ranges from two to four weeks in case of the Martins but amounts to only a few days with the Swifts.——Other early dates for this season are Chuck-will's-widow and Gray-cheeked Thrush, April 6; Redstart, April 11; and Magnolia Warbler, April 16 (last year April 14).——Spring was retarded by moderately cool weather and the first half of May was particularly wet and chilly; only during the latter half did the blackberries come into full bloom. The flocking of Swifts continued through April and even after pairs had taken up individual chimneys, unpleasant weather on May 13 made them hover all day over the common roosting places and go into them once more at dusk. ——The cold spring may have been the reason for the delayed arrival of some of our summer residents. Green Herons were first observed April 16, two weeks later than usual, and the Yellow-billed Cuckoos, coming May 23, were the last to appear on the scene. Cedar Waxwings had been scarce during winter and early spring but came back in good numbers when the mulberries ripened. Red-headed Woodpeckers after being rare from November till March, returned in reduced numbers. We attribute their decrease to the Starlings who rob them of their former nest holes by prior occupation. Other Woodpeckers suffering from this intruder are the Red-bellied and the Flicker. We have seen both of them lose in open fight the holes they had dug, to Starlings, and this happened in the woods as well as near dwellings. (But unwise is the Starling that tries to dislodge a Woodpecker after an egg has been laid!) Bluebirds seem less troubled by the invader, as he does not seem to care for their usual nesting sites which are too low over the ground.—— Savannah Sparrows became quite common during the first part of April and a group of migrating Swamp Sparrows appeared in our backyards on the 18th. Our yards were also visited by Lincoln's Sparrows in fair numbers during the period from May 8-15. This was the time when the White- throated Sparrows gradually thinned out, although we have positive sight records of single birds on May 25 and May 28.——Among the waterbirds the abundance of Blue-winged Teal was marked. This species outnumbered the Ring-necked and Scaup Ducks which heretofore had been our most plentiful ducks.——Among the rarer occurrences the following deserve mention: March 26, Golden-eye, 1, and American Bittern, 1, at Marks' Slough; March 30, Herring Gulls, 4 at a 'rain-lake' in bottomland; April 6, Buffle-head, 1, among a dozen Scaups on the Cumberland River; April 13, Greater Yellowleg, 4, near the river; and April 9, Osprey, 1, flying over the river. April was a banner month for our observations as 130 species were recorded as seen in that time.——ALFRED CLEBSCH, Clarksville.

NASHVILLE AREA:—A cool May, with well distributed rainfall, made the usual spring migration quite normal and with vegetation far advanced, nesting activities were a bit earlier than usual. Each week-end for four weeks, one of our T. O. S. chapters put on a Field Day and those of us who attend as many as possible, were wishing for a pair of the fabled seven-league boots.——The Spring Field Day at Nashville, held May 14 on Sycamore Creek at Old Hopkinsville Road, drew members from as far east as Knoxville and westward from Memphis. About 80 were in attendance and the usual excellent list of species was recorded. Among the nests found there during the day were those of Black and White Warbler with 2 eggs (they hatched 2 days later), Hooded Warbler with 4 eggs (fresh), La. Water-thrush with 4 small young, and nests of Kingfisher, Cardinal, Field Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, White-eyed Vireo, Downy Woodpecker and others. Sycamore and Cerulean Warblers were quite common along the stream. Among the late transients noted were Olive-backed Thrush, Lincoln's and White-throated Sparrows, and of Warblers the Bay-breasted, Black-poll, Black-throated Green, Chestnut-sided, Myrtle, Magnolia, Palm, Tennessee, and Canada. Along a lane to the eastward, J. A. Robins saw Prairie Horned Larks in several places; doubtless at home for summer at this late date.——A Sora Rail was found dead on May 18, on the Peabody College campus in Nashville and given to me for preservation by J. M. Shaver.——A Mockingbird had apparently established himself on the State Capitol grounds, being seen there on April 29 by H. C. Monk and at other times by G. R. Mayfield. This small oasis in the center of the city is also the home of a pair of Sparrow Hawks which prey chiefly upon English Sparrows but also upon young Nighthawks fledged upon the downtown gravel roofs. Blue Jays also visit this square in summer but do not nest there.——An unusual 'in the city' visitor was a Whip-poor-will, which called for a short time at 3 A.M. on May 16 at 1605 Villa St., in the yard of Mrs. Talley who reported it. G. R. Mayfield states that this species has also occurred on the Vanderbilt campus. The last mentioned observer reported a Buffle-head on Sanford's pond near Donelson, on April 22.——A flock of 25 Rusty Blackbirds was seen at the creek on Hobbs Road, on April 19, by Wm. Simpson. He, in company with Arthur McMurray, reported 200 Bobolinks on May 5 at Knapp Farm. Nearby they flushed a Nighthawk from its two eggs; rather an early date for this species.——A Woodcock, feigning a broken wing, was observed on May 19 by Mortimer on Marrowbone Creek; good evidence that a brood of young were nearby.——A pair of Barred Owls were reported by H. C. Monk to have reared a brood of young in Shelby Park where on May 19 he observed two but recently from the nest. These owls have been reported here in other years also and the writer recalls an adult there, sitting patiently on a limb ten feet above the slough, watching for crayfish and kindred 'fry' in the shallow water below.——Mourning Warblers are rarely reported here, so one observed at close range on May 13 near Radnor Lake by Miss Mary Lee, is of interest.——Mrs. Laskey is again actively engaged in her banding studies of Bluebirds in the Warner Parker nest-box project and has more than 50 occupied boxes under observation.——A nest of the Cooper's Hawk containing 5 fresh eggs was found by the writer on May 28 at Craggie Hope, this being a very late date. The nest was near the top of a slender pine in a pine grove where the Sharp-shinned Hawks usually breed; the latter were not found there this year.—ALBERT F. GANIER, Nashville.

# THE ROUND TABLE

SOUVENIRS OF THE SPRING MIGRATION:—The spring migration just passed furnished some interesting records for my notebook. On April 23 a Lark Sparrow was found in a new subdivision, running tamely along ahead of the car. In flight its tail looked unusually long, the tip was conspicuously rounded and heavily tipped with white. These characters readily distinguish this local rarity from other 'ground" sparrows. This species is apparently a regular summer resident in the cedar glades, but elsewhere in our country it is seldom seen. I had not observed it away from the glades before in 23 years local experience.——A very late White-throated Sparrow was seen on Centennial Park hill on May 20. It called frequently, but did not sing. This fact and its rather dull colors suggest it was a female. I rarely hear this species sing in May, and suspect that most of the males move north by this time. The record equals my previous late date of May 20, 1937, and also William Walker's May 20, 1929 record.——Another late record came to hand on May 26 when a male Rose-breasted Grosbeak was discovered in Shelby Park. The morning was heavily overcast and the gloomy woods were nearly silent, when the "click" note of this species was heard. These notes led to the bird, which also sang a few low, short songs as it hopped about and fed in a huge oak tree. This bird was exactly one week later than any other I have a record of locally. ——Cedar Waxwings are usually the last transients to leave in the spring but did not remain as late this year as they usually do. I saw several small flocks in the mulberry trees in Centennial Park on May 30, and a flock of 24 flew over my home at dusk that day. No more were seen later. The last flocks of this species are always found in mulberry trees, but the birds leave weeks before the supply of this fruit is exhausted. It seems probable that the mulberries influence the Waxwings to tarry here, but do not entirely overcome the urge to migrate to another region to nest.——HARRY C. MONK, Nashville.

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A BANDED CARDINAL AT CLARKSVILLE:—Last March I banded a female Cardinal with a No. 2 band that must have been too large for this individual's tarsus. Such a band can become the cause of injury when it catches on some pointed object and the bird is jerked to a stop or struggles to get loose. In this case, at least, later events show that the band made trouble for my Cardinal, yet, strangely, it then helped cure the ill it had brought. Yesterday, after a lapse of three months, the bird returned Her right leg on which the band was worn, was glued into the feathers of the breast by dried blood. When this mass was gently loosened with warm water I saw that the leg had been broken, but, held by the band as in a sling and, probably aided by rest as the bird sat on her eggs, it had healed completely. Although the shank had a knot and was crooked, the use of the toes was left unimpaired and mother Cardinal was foraging for her young.—MRS. JOHN Y. HUTCHISON, Clarksville.

OBSERVATIONS ON THE NESTING HABITS OF THE LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE:—Some observations, which to the writer seemed quite interesting, were made upon a Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus ludovicianus*) and her young, at Baton Rouge, La., during the spring of 1931.——The nest was situated about four feet from the ground in a small clump of bamboo cane (Arundinaria) located about one foot from a concrete walk along which people passed during the day. This proximity to human traffic first attracted the writer's notice, and daily observations were begun concerning the nesting bird's feeding habits and general activities.——Among the points observed, the following seemed to be of most importance:——(1) The nesting bird, presumably the female, did all of the incubating altho her mate, who could be distinguished by a slight brownish holdover from his immature plumage, was often seen in the vicinity.——(2) One definite time was established when she left the nest daily. This was within a half-hour interval at about four P.M.——(3) After a few days she became tame enough to accept food left upon the side of the nest. Her usual behavior was to scold a bit, fly to the other side of the clump and return for the food as soon as the hand placing it was withdrawn.——(4) Frogs, lizards, beetles, crickets, earthworms and pillbugs were fed to her and the only thing she ever refused was a large slug. This she took and dropped about thirty feet away upon the sidewalk. Immediately afterwards she accepted a large frog.——(5) Fourteen days after observations were begun all five eggs were hatched. This occurred sometime during the period from 5:00 P.M., April 6 to 5:00 P.M., April 7.

April 23, on the approach of the writer, all of the young except one left the nest and hopped about in the cane.——The following outline traces their development through the 17-day period:

April 7—Young hatched.
April 12—Some growth apparent.
April 14—A few feathers showing. Eyes beginning to open.
April 16—Marked feathers appear. Eyes almost completely open. Considerable growth.
April 19—Crowding the nest. Legs, wings and tail covered with feathers. Eyes completely open.
April 22—Fully feathered.
April 23—Can use wings a little. Able to leave nest readily.

FORREST V. DURAND, Springfield, Tennessee.

NOTE:—The Loggerhead Shrike or its related and more northern subspecies, the Migrant Shrike, is found thruout Tennessee but can be said to be fairly common only in western and south central Tennessee. This interesting account is included principally to direct our readers' attention to what interesting observations can be recorded if we will only make the effort.—

A State Conservation Commission has been appointed by Governor Cooper to act in an advisory capacity with the Dept. of Conservation. The T. O. S., having worked constantly for wildlife conservation for 24 years, finds considerable satisfaction in the naming of Dr. Geo. R. Mayfield, one of our founder members, as Chairman of the new Commission. While of an advisory nature we believe the Commission will be able to accomplish much in promoting a long-time conservation program.

The **Blue Grass Chapter** held its spring field day on April 30 at Beaver Dam Springs in Hickman County. With unsurpassed weather and a bountiful lunch the outing was especially pleasant. We only wish that those members who were unable to be present knew just what they missed. We were pleased to have many guests with us.——The Louisiana Water-thrush was common and its song was conspicuously frequent throughout the day. Several Scarlet Tanagers were seen near the picnic table. They appeared very gentle, resting on low limbs long enough for everyone to observe them closely.——The birds seen were recorded by the following members: Mr. Alfred Clagett, Mrs. F. C. Laskey, Dr. O. J. Porter, Mrs. Sam Rogers, and Mr. Porter Stone. ——A suggestion was made and tentatively adopted, that, since the members of the Blue Grass Chapter are so scattered, our meetings be held hereafter at Osceola, the beautiful farm of our president, Dr. O. J. Porter, located near Columbia. All members attending will bring a basket lunch. The Fall Field Day was scheduled for the last Sunday in October and we hope that this date will not coincide with that set by any other chapter. We hereby extend a cordial invitation to members-at-large and members of other chapters to join us on that date.—MRS. SAM H. ROGERS, Pulaski.

HATCHIE RIVER WILDLIFE SURVEY: In *Tennessee Wildlife* (June 1939, p. 10) we note with particular interest an announcement by Director Richard G. Turner of the Game and Fish Division, Department of Conservation, of a wildlife survey of the Hatchie river watershed in southwest Tennessee. The project is under the immediate direction of Mr. Val Solyom, Game Technician, who will make use of the results in his game managment studies. The announcement reads in part:

"The field survey of the Hatchie river watershed got under way June 15. The survey began in the southern section of McNairy County and will proceed downstream through the counties traversed by the Hatchie river and will include its tributaries encountered as the survey progresses.

"So far as is known at present, biological survey work in this area has never been undertaken before in a thorough manner. The Hatchie river seems to be the meeting point of northern and southern flora and fauna, hence should produce valuable information on game management, propagation and conservation.

"The survey party consists of Willet N. Wandell of Wisconsin, a trained mammalogist, John B. Calhoun, Nashville ornithologist, Albert Reynolds of Michigan, botanist and topographer, and John A. Pond of Memphis, camp chief and assistant mammalogist and ornithologist.

"The party should gather very valuable information inasmuch as this is the first known group to make a detailed survey along this watershed. No available records give any information to show what actually exists in the survey area. Reports of their findings will be published in subsequent issues of Tennessee Wildlife magazine and otherwise made available for the information of the public."

Alfred Clebsch, Jr., also joined the party and we note with pride that Messrs. Calhoun, Clebsch, and Pond are valued members of the T. O. S. They have been most active in field work which fact should stand them in good stead on the expedition. Calhoun has recently graduated from the Miller

School of Biology at the University of Virginia and, according to freshman Vardaman of our Memphis chapter, was the busiest man there. Unquestionably our members join us in wishing the Survey party every success.

The usual "Field Week" in the Tennessee Mountains, which has been conducted for several years past by Mr. A. F. Ganier, our Curator, has been omitted this year on account of a trip by him to the Pacific Coast, including attendance at the meeting of the American Ornithologists Union at San Francisco. Mrs. Coffey and Miss Alice Smith of Memphis visited Mrs. C. A. Barefield (who attended the Smoky Mountains trip last June) at Norfolk, Va. The high point of the visit was a trip to famous Cobb's Island which continues to have large nesting colonies of terns, gulls, skimmers, and other water birds. Your editor spent a week listing the birds of Tishomingo State Park in Northeast Mississippi. Several of our Memphis Scouts are taking the opportunity of using binoculars and 'Peterson' in Texas (Wallace), the Gulf Coast and Florida (Taylor, Burdick) and the Middle Atlantic coast (Vardaman). McCamey rushed home from Yale to visit Reelfoot, Moon Lake, and other points of interest. Our mail box reveals that Dr. and Mrs. Henry Meyer are at Ann Arbor, Mich., for the summer but is silent concerning any others of our membership who may be exploring new fields.

The following mimeographed material is to a limited extent available free from Ben Coffey, 672 N. Belvedere, Memphis. Please send postage,—1½c for the Mississippi list and 1½c for any or all of the others.

1. Spring Migration Calendar for Memphis. 1928—1936.
2. Birds That Bear Numbers. 1936. (Bird-banding procedure).
3. Mississippi Xmas Bird Census Summary. (11 localities, 1935-36.)
4. Memphis Bird Outline. 1939. (Prepared for garden club speakers, etc. in order to give them a specific outline locally applicable to bird study and bird attraction. Most common birds would probably have to be changed slightly for use elsewhere.)
5. Bird Life of Memphis and Vicinity. March, 1932. (A very preliminary list only and now incorrect in part. On special request).
6. Summer Birds of Memphis Camps in the Ozarks. (Hardy and Mammonth Spring, Ark.) 1931. On special request only.
7. A Preliminary List of the Birds of Mississippi. May, 1936. To aid and encourage bird students in our sister state. Based on the sparse published material on that state, publications for adjacent states, and the writer's frequent field trips into North Mississippi.

In the interest of our persecuted birds of prey we will also include the National Association of Audubon Societies Circular 25, 'Eastern Hawks—What They Look Like in the Air' (reproduced in *The Migrant*, 1937, pp 55-56) and, reverse side, 'What Hawks Eat' (to be reproduced in a later issue). Two copies will be sent so that each side can be displayed on a bulletin board at school, camp, Scout room, or the like. The writer gave 250 for distribution in the Shelby County Schools, and chapters or T. O. S. members individually can secure such quantities at cost from the Association (attention of Mr. Richard H. Pough).

# THE MIGRANT

A QUARTERLY JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE STUDY OF TENNESSEE BIRDS.
**PUBLISHED BY THE TENNESSEE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY.**
Editor, Ben B. Coffey, Jr., 672 N. Belvedere, Memphis.
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Items for publication should be sent to the Editor.

*"The simple truth about birds is interesting enough,*
*it is not necessary to go beyond it."*

Last year at this time we urged our readers to note how common the various summer resident species were in their area and to compile a list showing the more abundant species.—preferably in order of occurrence. Lists from all over the state were published in the September issue of *The Migrant* (pp. 46-50). We suggest that each contributor look over his or her list with the idea of subconsciously, if not purposely, checking up and improving the list thru continued observations this summer. Perhaps at some future time we will repeat the project but the published lists should be something on which to base further studies. Those who did not submit lists should refer to the lists for nearby areas and use them in making comparisons with the birdlife in their communities.

In future issues we hope to conduct a 'round table' or symposium on: (1) planting to attract birds; (2) bird study and conservation in the schools. We would like to have our readers' ideas and suggestions on these topics. Send lists of shrubs (with comments) to a regional editor or to the editor. Accounts of practical study projects that have been worked out in schools, by teachers alone or in cooperation with T. O. S. members or chapters, are especially desired. Lists of the more desirable bird books and pamphlets, teaching guides, and other references will be prepared.

There was not sufficient copy for this issue on hand before we left on our vacation and so all work had to be deferred until our return and sandwiched in with July commitments. Our copy basket is practically 'cleaned out' at this writing. We are especially desirous of starting early on the next issue so that we can go after flocks of Swifts without the 'specter' of *The Migrant* down each chimney. Your cooperation will be appreciated. Seasonal notes should be sent in by September 1st. Feature articles should be sent in as soon as possible.——Do it now! Don't be hesitant about sending in notes and articles. *The Migrant* is from the other T. O. S. members to you and from you to your fellow-members. 'George' can't describe that experience but you can. Glean the interesting facts from your field cards and notes, then send them in!

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Jones, St. George, Jr., 905 N. Maple St.

NOTE: The names of Dr. James B. Black, Prof. George Davis, and Henry O. Todd were included in the previous roll but without the proper chapter designation as above.

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NOTE: Chapter includes Mr. W. P. Morrison, organizer, who was listed on previous roll.

## PARIS CHAPTER

(This is a new chapter, composed of members previously listed under 'Tennessee At Large,' namely: Paul Crosswy, Billy Neal, L. D. (Buster) Thompson, and Dr. M. C. Woods.)

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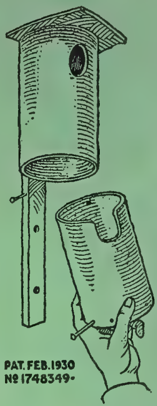

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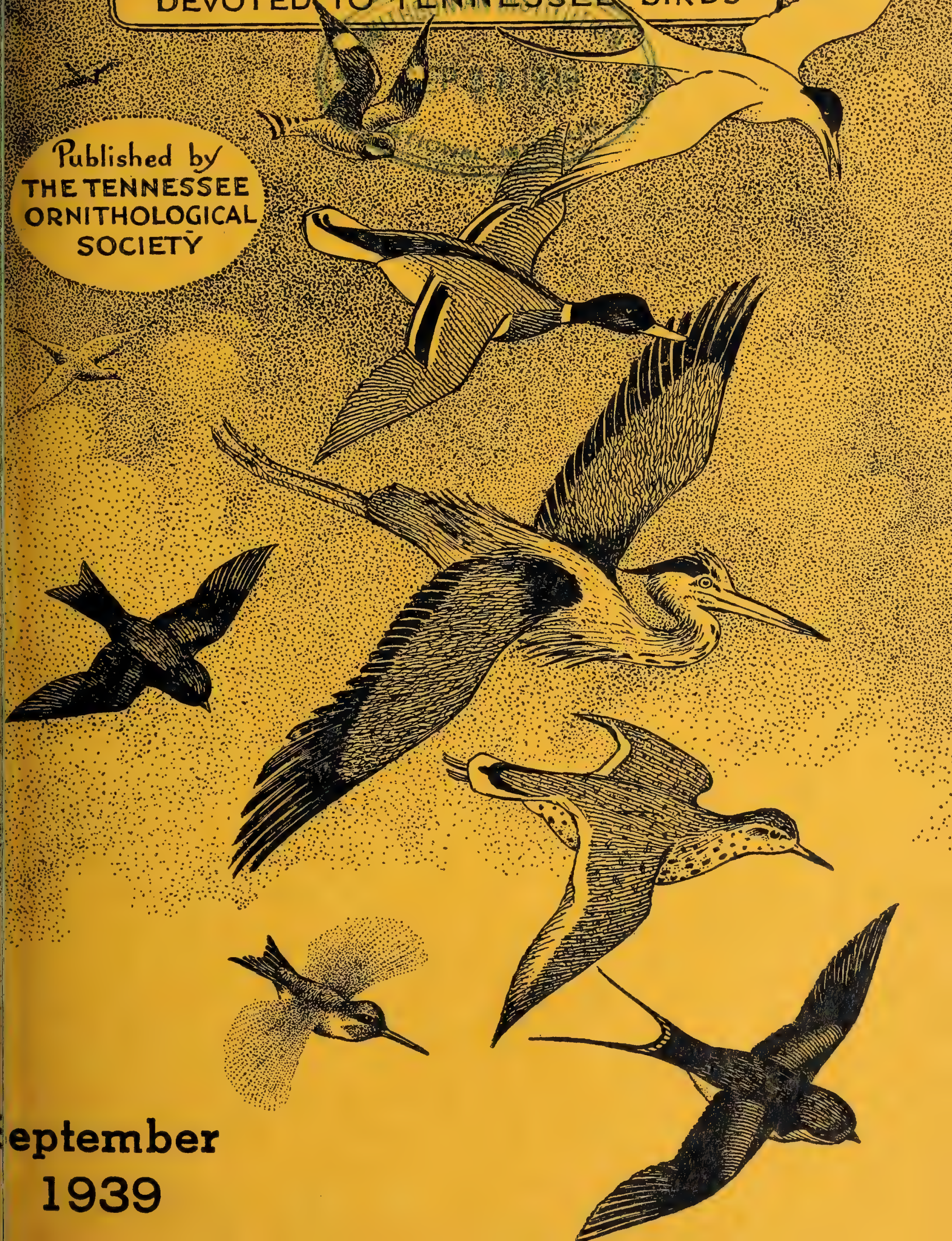

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# CANOEING FOR BIRDS ALONG RED RIVER

By Albert F. Ganier

To be afield in mid-autumn in Middle Tennessee is an event to be looked forward to and an experience to be remembered. Particularly is this true along the streams of the Highland Rim where more than elsewhere the leaves take on in the waning year those rainbow hues that make them a riot of color. The streams run low in crystal clear water and the falling leaves of many colors dot their surface and lazily float along. Grape vines drape the bending trees and hanging masses of their purple fruit entice the transient thrushes to tarry on their southbound journey. The blue haze of woods-smoke mellows the autumn sun and make it not unwelcome to temper the chilling air of Indian Summer. To the nature lover there comes a yearning to leisurely and lazily tramp the woods and fields at this time, to watch the birds, and to note how they add life and zest to the scene at Nature's harvest time.

The third of October, 1936, found five of us on the bank of Red River, in Montgomery County near the pioneer settlement of Port Royal. In the water were two trim canoes with their prows pointed toward Clarksville, 22 miles downstream. The canoes had been brought on a truck, launched, and in them placed our needs for a glorious and leisurely two-day trip to this little river's mouth on the Cumberland. The day was clear and we were in high spirits over the prospects of carrying out our well matured plans. Our party was composed of Dr. Charles F. Pickering, Mr. Alfred Clebsch, his two sons, Alfred, Jr. and William, and the writer. After a bit of wading about in the clear shallow water and after taking photos of the boats and party under the old covered bridge overhead, we were soon gliding downstream to the tune of dipping paddles.

The Red is perhaps the most beautiful of Tennessee little rivers. Its course is margined with stately sycamores and other forest trees while every now and then great limestone cliffs rise high above the water. There are no roads close by, those nearest parralelling it a half mile or more away. It is therefore well off the beaten path and few there are who visit its banks except the farmers along the way who come with fishing pole and can of bait.

As we rounded a turn, there was a splashing in the water ahead as a flock of Wood Ducks arose and flew on down the stream. Yes, here, we

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realized, was an ideal stream for the breeding of these birds, now rare over most of the country. Eight flocks were thus encountered on our two day journey, more we believe than could be found on any similar stream in the State. The flocks ran from two to twelve, averaging about seven. Further on, we came upon a lone Pied-billed Grebe which dived on ahead until it came to a shallow shoal where it mysteriously disappeared.

Some of the shoals were too shallow for our loaded canoes, in which case we stepped out and led the boats over the gravel bottom to deep water again. At times we beached the boats and explored the willows on the bars or the woods and ragwood patches on the banks. Among our finds here were two of the elusive little Lincoln's Sparrows, one of which was secured with a small collecting gun. The Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers had arrived from the north and a total of six were listed. We found warblers chiefly in the ragweeds. Among them were the Canada, Tennessee, Redstart, Magnolia, Chestnut-sided, Black-throated Green, Black and White, and the Oven-bird. We scanned the shores rather carefully for Water-thrushes and thought it unusual that not a single bird of this species was listed on the trip. They evidently go southward before this date.

At three points on our journey, a noisy squawk and flapping of wings ahead announced that a Great Blue Heron had been startled at our approach. But not a single Green Heron was to be seen although doubtless many of them breed here in summer. Neither were Sandpipers—the Spotted and the Solitary—to be found; to record one of the latter we had to visit a pond in a nearby pasture.

As the sun dipped lower we speeded up to make our half-way camping ground, where our truck had left some blankets, utensils and a bale of straw for us. There we drove our canoes up on the gravel bar, broke up a pile of dead sycamore limbs and soon had a rousing fire going while the cooking utensils were made ready. Presently everybody was frying, toasting, or boiling their particular assignment. Supper over and with not much light left, we climbed up on a little island behind us and prepared to spend the night there. Our roof was to be the starry skies above and our bed the bale of straw distributed on the ground between four logs dragged into place. There were blankets aplenty, thanks to the well made plans of my fellow voyagers, and sleeping five in a bed proved to be no discomfort in a bed made twelve feet wide.

As we sat and chatted before our camp fire we listened for nocturnal sounds and heard both the Great Horned and Barred Owls as well as a belated Nighthawk. The boys were mimicking the Barred Owl when suddenly a ghostly little apparition wafted itself into the firelight and perched on a limb just ten feet over our heads. It was a little red Screech Owl which seemed to enjoy the warmth of the fire as it half closed its eyes and sat, paying no attention to us at all. We addressed considerable conversation to our visitor, called him uncomplimentary names, accused him of murdering his feathered kin, yelled at him, and thru it all he ignored us completely.

A good night's rest we voted it as we arose with the sun next morning. Soon bacon was frying, coffee boiling and a stack of flap-jacks made ready for five keen appetites. Early morning was glorious, the air cool, and the birds and squirrels active in search of food. As we drifted along we noted how occasionally the limbs of the big sycamores, growing on opposite banks, would meet at midstream. For these we coined the name 'squirrel bridges'. Sure enough, before the day was over, we had the pleasure of seeing a squirrel using one of the 'bridges', far above our heads.

Kingfishers were seen on an average of one for each mile. When we would first come upon one he would fly several hundred feet ahead and take a new perch. This would be repeated for half a mile or so, then suddenly he would decide to 'run the gauntlet' by flying swiftly by us, sometimes even thru the trees, to take up his former stand. A Winter Wren in a pile of drift was of more than passing interest, in view of the early date. Of hawks, we listed the Cooper's (2), the Sparrow (2), the Red-tailed (1) and the Red-shouldered (4). One of the last mentioned hawks was seen to fly to the water's edge ahead of us and to wade along in the shallow water, probably searching for crawfish.

Pileated Woodpeckers were observed at sixteen points during the two days and conditions here were ideal for them. Plenty of big trees all along with occasional extensive woodlands and but few humans, probably indicate that these big woodpeckers are as common here now as in pioneer times. The Red-bellied Woodpeckers were busy as usual at this season, storing up beech nuts and acorns and giving their cheerful rattling call as they worked. The Downy, Hairy and Red-headed Woodpeckers were also listed. At one point, we saw a large dark bird perched ahead on a sycamore limb above the stream. As we approached we saw that it was a Turkey Vulture and its black head identified it as a young one. It kept its perch as we passed underneath; not yet having learned to fear man.

The leisurely pleasure of the day was not to go unbroken by a disconcerting incident. As one of our canoes was 'shooting a rapids', it was swept under a low limb and turned over with all hands, three, including the writer. We soon rescued the canoe and its equipment, all wet except my camera which I had held aloft as I went under. The air being too chilly to remain in wet clothes, we festooned them about a good fire and after an hour's delay and the endurance of gibes from the dry ones, we were again arrayed and on our way.

Clarksville was reached at dusk by paddling a mile up the Cumberland from the mouth of the Red River and thus ended a most interesting and enjoyable trip. Our list of birds included 60 species, which was considered good in view of the date and the fact that we were on the water most of the time. The following year we repeated the trip, but a week earlier, i.e., Sept. 25 and 26, 1937, and again our card showed 60 species. One Water-thrush was seen on this trip and one Green Heron, neither species having been recorded on the first occasion.

NASHVILLE, TENN., September, 1939.

# NOTES ON BIRDS OF MISSISSIPPI

### BY M. G. VAIDEN

During the past thirty years the writer has had opportunity to study bird-life extensively in Mississippi, and for the past twenty years his study has been done principally in the Yazoo-Mississippi Delta of the state. The birds which I am recording in an annotated list are from the Delta, principally Bolivar County unless otherwise noted.

This section known as the Delta is an area with the Mississippi River as its west boundary, and high hills as its east boundary, running from the Tennessee line to Vicksburg, Mississippi, a distance of approximately 175 miles in length and sixty miles at its widest point. The area formed by the conjunction of the hills with the river at its northern and southern extremities is similar in shape to an ovate pyraform. It is plentifully covered with lakes, rivers, bayous, creeks, sloughs, swails, brakes and potholes. There are thousands of acres of heavily wooded land. The soil is "madeland" from hundreds of overflows previous to the construction of the great levee system following some three hundred miles of meandering river. At no place is the area over two hundred feet above sea level.

The Arkansas and White rivers flow into the Mississippi near Rosedale, five miles below and three miles above town, respectively, forming a natural bird migration route from the north and west, now the greatest route known to this continent.

All specimens listed in this paper have been identified for subspecies by Dr. Alexander Wetmore of the U. S. National Museum, Washington, D.C., and to whom I am greatly indebted for making this paper possible. I also wish to thank Miss Florence Bogan of Rosedale for assistance given in editing and in checking Latin phrases.

WESTERN RED-TAILED HAWK, *Buteo borealis calurus.*—A male collected December 17, 1938, proved to be a dark phase of this form. This is the first record for Mississippi.

TEXAS BOB-WHITE, *Colinus virginianus texanus.*—A male found dead February 26, 1938, shortly after being released from a shipping crate, was of this sub-species.

EASTERN SOLITARY SANDPIPER, *Tringa solitaria solitaria.*—Two specimens collected August 14 and September 18, 1938, are of this form. One specimen (August 14) was identified by Dr. Wetmore. These birds are consistent spring and autumn migrants, singly and in occasional pairs.

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER, *Pisobia bairdi.*—Singly and in groups of three, four, and six, these little sandpipers are found running along the sandbars near the edge of water; mainly on the bars of the river. A specimen collected October 14, 1937, proved to be of this species. Generally they are in separate groups, not associating with others of similar species. A group of three was mingling with a flock of Least Sandpipers on October 26, 1938, at Legion Lake, near Rosedale. Records indicate that this is the first reported collection of a specimen in Mississippi.

LEAST SANDPIPER, *Pisobia minutilla.*—Specimens taken of this species are: March 18, a male; August 13, a female; August 17, 1938, a male. It is the most common sandpiper seen here during migration. A flock estimated at 250 was noted on April 5, 1931, at Legion Lake.

SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER, *Ereunetes pusillus.*—This is a fairly common migrant in spring and autumn. A male was collected August 9, 1938.

WESTERN SANDPIPER, *Ereunetes mauri.*—A male collected from a flock on August 17, 1938, is the first specimen reported collected in the State. It is a very common migrant.

FLORIDA SCREECH OWL, *Otus asio floridanus.*—Specimens taken March 5, 1937, and December 12, 1938, both females, are of this form. Quoting from Dr. Wetmore's letter of February 23, 1939: "One of your Screech Owls, a female in gray phase, is somewhat intermediate toward typical *asio* but has moderately small size and is darker than the averages so that I have identified it with the other specimen as *floridanus.*"

WESTERN BURROWING OWL, *Speotyto cunicularia hypugaea.*—On April 11, 1937, a female of this species was collected from the edge of a wide and deep barrow-pit just south of Moon Lake, Coahoma County. This is the first record for the state.

NORTHERN DOWNY WOODPECKER, *Dryobates pubescens medianus.*—On January 10, 1939, a male collected proved to be this form, a regular migrant from the North. However, it has not been heretofore reported from Mississippi.

FLORIDA NUTHATCH, *Sitta carolinensis atkinsi.*—Our nesting species is of this form. A specimen was collected June 8, 1938.

SOUTHERN CREEPER, *Certhia familiaris nigrescens.*—A male of this recently described form breeding in the southern Appalachian Mountains was taken January 9, 1938. As yet there are few records outside its breeding grounds, and this is the first record for Mississippi.

OHIO HOUSE WREN, *Troglodytes aedon baldwini.*— On January 16, 1938, a male of this recently described form was taken.

EASTERN WINTER WREN, *Nannus hiemalis hiemalis.*—Typical specimens of the race secured are: a female, January 9; a male, November 16; and a male, December 9, 1938.

BEWICK'S WREN, *Thryomanes bewicki bewicki.*—A female of this species was collected on February 7, 1938. This is a rare breeding bird in the state. I have found only four nests in the past thirty years.

OLIVE-BACKED THRUSH, *Hylocichla ustulata swainsoni.*—On May 7, 1937, a male was collected which proved to be this form. It is a very common migrant usually appearing April 19 to May 14.

AMERICAN PIPIT, *Anthus spinoletta rubescens.* — A series of three males were taken on January 4, January 17, and November 10, 1937. This is a very abundant winter resident from October 18 to April 20, in suitable localities, principally feeding on the levee.

EASTERN WARBLING VIREO, *Vireo gilvus gilvus.*—A male specimen collected May 27, 1937, near its nest proved to be of the Eastern race. It is a fairly common nesting species.

GRINNELL'S WATER-THRUSH, *Seiurus noveboracensis notabilis.*—A male taken May 14, 1937, and two males on September 1, 1938, proved to be of this form. Specimens were taken from large migrating flocks. This is the first reported record in the state.

ALABAMA TOWHEE, *Pipilo erythrophthalmus canaster.*—Two males in moulting plumage were secured on August 20, 1938, at their nesting grounds near here. This collection establishes the breeding form as *canaster* for this section of the state.

EASTERN SAVANNAH SPARROW, *Passerculus sandwichensis savanna.*—Of a series of seven skins, four were of the Eastern form, while three were the recently described Churchill Savannah Sparrow, *oblitus.*

CHURCHILL SAVANNAH SPARROW, *Passerculus sandwichensis oblitus.*—See comments on preceding form. These are the first specimens taken in the state.

LECONTE'S SPARROW, *Passerherbulus caudacutus.*—On February 4, 1938, a male of this species was collected south of Rosedale. It was shot awing after being flushed the third time. This is the second record for Mississippi, the first record having been taken by Ben B. Coffey near Lake View on February 20, 1937. (*The Migrant*, p. 15, March, 1937).

EASTERN VESPER SPARROW, *Pooecetes gramineus gramineus.*—This is a fairly rare migrant in autumn, but common in spring migration, usually associating with Savannah Sparrows along the slopes of the levee. A male obtained March 18, 1937, was the Eastern form.

EASTERN TREE SPARROW, *Spizella arborea arborea.*—This is a very rare migrant here. A male was collected April 1, 1938. I find no record of a specimen taken heretofore in the state.

EASTERN FIELD SPARROW, *Spizella pusilla pusilla.*—On November 30, 1938, a male was secured. This is our nesting form.

WESTERN FIELD SPARROW, *Spizella pusilla arenacea.*—A migrant, a male, taken February 27, 1937, is, I believe, the first recorded for the state.

GAMBEL'S SPARROW, *Zonotrichia leucophrys gambeli.*—A male specimen taken from a small flock of nine on March 2, 1937, was of this western form.

EASTERN FOX SPARROW, *Passerella iliaca iliaca.*—Birds taken January 26, and October 31, 1937, both males, were of the typical race. This is a common winter resident that has not been reported from the state before this time.

LINCOLN'S SPARROW, *Melospiza lincolni lincolni.*—During the winter of 1937-38, this species was a most common resident at Legion Lake, feeding in sagrain planted for winter pasture. Specimens, both females, were secured on December 4, and February 7, 1937. Groups of twenty to thirty-five were seen almost daily near this lake at that time.

SWAMP SPARROW, *Melospiza georgiana.*—Three specimens were collected: February 28, a male; November 7, a female; December 29, 1937, a male. It is one of our most common winter residents, being exceeded in numbers by only the White-throated Sparrow, *Zonotrichia albicollis*, and the Mississippi Song Sparrow, *Melospiza melodia beata.*

ROSEDALE, MISS., September, 1939.

# BIRD BANDING BREVITIES—NO. 14

BY AMELIA R. LASKEY

**Slate-colored Junco** H32742, banded Feb., 1933, was a return-5 at the home station last December, being at that time over six years old. Although he has been retaken each winter since 1933, he has never re-entered a banding trap as a repeat during the season.——A female **Carolina Wren,** at least five years old, has a most interesting record. She was banded Nov. 19, 1934 and apparently has spent the intervening years in the environment of the station as she has been retaken at intervals since. She usually nests on a shelf in the garage or in the window box outside the living room windows among English ivy vines. This summer she had three successful broods of young; the first group of four left the nest in the garage (built in a dust mop on a shelf) on Apr. 20; the next brood of two left the window box nest in early June; for the third nesting, the nest used in April was reoccupied, and from it three young fledged Aug. 12.——**Field Sparrows** lead in numbers banded at the home station. In eight years of trapping more than 2200 have been banded. The tabulated records of retrapped birds, amounting to many thousands, show a definite migration of individuals, apparently dividing this 'permanent resident' species into summer and winter residents, as well as spring and fall migrants passing through on their way to wintering or breeding grounds. This past year has yielded my first foreign recovery record and the first link in substantiation of my migration theory for Tennessee. The Biological Survey reported that Field Sparrow 36-92075 was found dead in a suburb of Cincinnati, Ohio on Aug. 20, 1938. It had been banded Nov. 2, 1936.——Other especially interesting recovery reports received are those of two **Chimney Swifts** banded in September, 1938. Both were trapped and released by bird banders in May of this year, one in Maryland and one in Texas. Although much time has been spent this season searching for Swift roosts, only a few have been located in Nashville during August and these were very small, the largest containing only 400 birds. Last year the workers had banded several flocks of 2,000 to 4,000 each between August 23rd and September 1st. This year we trapped on August 14, 30, and 31, with a total banded of 724 birds and obtained 131 recoveries and returns in the three flocks. Most of the latter were birds banded here last year. One wonders if the peak of the migration will come later or if the breeding season has been less successful.——Through the efforts of William Simpson who is an excellent climber, a number of species have been banded from nests located in almost inaccessible places. These included 4 Green Herons, 2 Red-tailed Hawks, 4 Barn Owls, 2 Great Horned Owls, and 10 Crows. The Biological Survey is urging the banding of nestling Crows as well as Hawks and Owls to obtain more data on their movements.——Arthur McMurray was successful in banding 5 young **Nighthawks** (representing 4 broods) on gravel-surfaced roofs in the business section of town during June and July. One of the banded fledglings was found 18 days later in North Nashville, near the Cumberland River (3 miles from its home), with a broken wing and emaciated from lack of food. Indirectly the band doubtless saved its life, for through the efforts of several people it was soon delivered to my home. It is now in excellent physical condition, molting into adult plumage, making short flights, and probably can be released in time to make its autumn migration journey.——Two immature **Golden Eagles,** possibly of the same brood, were taken during the past winter. One was captured near Gallatin and the other was slightly wounded by gunshot near Hartsville. Both were rescued by the State Conservation Department and sent to Great Smoky Mountains National Park for releasing. Mr. Stupka, Park Naturalist, has cooperated well in caring for these birds.——The most active of my substations is a newly established feeding station in Belmont Heights operated by Mrs. Miller Dismukes. In a small yard in this closely built section, she captured and banded 159 birds of 18 species in eight months.

NASHVILLE, TENN., Sept. 4, 1939.

# AN ELECTRIC BIRD GAME

BY W. M. JOHNSON

Many of us have a speaking acquaintance with several birds and we always try to learn about each new one that visits our neighborhood and also more about the birds that are with us most of the time. We also realize that many people do not know birds and thus try to interest others. I have been fortunate, as from earliest remembrance some one of the family has been interested in nature study and more particularly in birds. The various birds were pointed out and we got so that we recognized birds just as we would recognize any of the neighbors. This interest has stayed with me and for several years I have been putting in more time trying to get additional information about birds.

After several discussions as to the best way to help create more interest among younger people, our Knoxville group decided to have a mounted collection of some of the more common birds. Twenty were mounted and placed in a glass fronted case which is lighted with bulbs. Several of us have taken the case to the schools here in Knoxville and Knox County. The children have been interested and the only trouble has been that we did not have enough birds to show. Questions were asked about many of the birds we did not have. Some months ago an article in *Bird-Lore* (July-Aug., 1938, pp. 262-268) was brought to my attention and it was suggested that I build an electric board that could be used for displaying bird cards or any one of many other kinds of cards.

This electric board is so constructed that a lamp will shine or a buzzer will sound when you touch the holder and the name of the bird. To prevent a simple memorizing of the birds by their place on the board the cards may be shifted in different groups. Three sets of the Audubon bird cards (postcard size) were purchased: 'Winter Birds', 'Spring Birds', and 'Summer Birds'. This lot of 150 cards show most of the birds that we have and others that we have not had the pleasure of seeing here at Knoxville. The board as constructed, accommodates 33 cards at a time and several different lists have been arranged. These lists are arranged to show birds such as ground feeders, birds of the air, birds to be found on the larger branches and trunks of trees, and other possible combinations. Each holder is numbered on the board and the cards carry a number on the back to show where it should be placed for each different series. This helps get the cards in proper order without delay. The school children enjoy using the board and I feel certain that they learn by working with it.

In building the board, two pieces of plywood are used. These, in my board are thirty inches square and are of one quarter inch material. Heavy block tin is bent to hold the cards. These holders are attached to one board with brass screws long enough to go a quarter of an inch thru the board. Five rows of seven spaces are laid out on the board. Two of the spaces were not used, as the list of the birds is attached instead of the bird cards. This list is typewritten and a contact screw is put beside it where each name comes. A piece of bell wire is run on the back of the board from the card holder to the proper name screw, being soldered at both ends. The names are not in the same order as the pictures but are mixed so that you have to know the name of the bird if you want the light to operate. Two wires are attached to a metal flashlight, partially taken apart, so that if the circuit is completed the light will shine. The wiring on the back is protected by fastening on the second piece of plywood.

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BY BEN B. COFFEY, JR.

A similar game was made at Memphis by Scout Neal Wyatt except that a door bell was mounted on the back, two No. 6 dry cells being used. Only one piece of plywood was used. No soldering was necessary as small brass bolts were used for contact points and the bell wire hooked under the nut. We would not advise getting coated bell wire as it has to be well scraped in order to make a good contact. The more common birds were represented by Audubon cards taken from the three $1.00 sets. Since the cards were glued on, these sets were broken. A cheaper method was sought for other boards and the better pictures were cut from the 'Red, Blue, and Green Books of Birds of America' sold at Woolworth's for ten cents each. The smaller size of these pictures allowed more to be used. They were pasted on sheets of cardboard which had holes punched where contact points were located. The names were cut from under the picture and pasted in the column of names in one corner. The more common birds were placed on one sheet and the lesser known and less common species on a second sheet. The permanent residents, etc., on each sheet were grouped and a note above the names explained the grouping. After using sheet No. 1, then No. 2 could be substituted, using thumb tacks to hold the sheet on the board. Other sheets of birds, trees and the like could be made. Mr. Johnson's method of changing the groups, as described previously, seems to be a better plan. Two boards with identical wiring hook-ups were made by Scout Emmett Ellis and two sets of sheets made for them. These were placed in the Shelby County Schools for their use last fall a year ago. The original board was a big attraction at the Junior Garden Club conservation booth at the Mid-South Fair, September, 1938, and again at the Memphis City Schools bird study exhibit at the Fair in 1939. The cost of materials, exclusive of pictures, was about $1.50 for each board. One of our county schools made one, however, for a cash outlay of 15 cents.

# SUMMER BIRDS OF TISHOMINGO STATE PARK, MISSISSIPPI

BY BEN B. COFFEY, JR.

Tishomingo State Park is located in the northeast corner of Mississippi in that topographical region designated by E. N. Lowe as the Tennessee River Hills. The entire state is located in the Austroriparian life zone but this subdivision more closely approaches the Carolinian life zone (in which most of Tennessee is located) than any other part of the state. The park itself is probably the most beautiful and rugged in the state and the most unique because of the marked contrast with the remainder of a state whose elevation varies only from sea level to 800 feet above it, and where exposed rock formations are rarely seen. Bear Creek comes down from the Alabama hills and is forced into a narrow valley with sandstone escarpments on one or both sides and large blocks of the stone tumbled about on the slopes. The park incorporates this rugged and wilder portion which is heavily wooded, while the wider and older valleys above and below are well cultivated. The elevation ranges from 460 feet to 600 or more feet above sea level.

The park as constituted at present consists of approximately 2,000 acres with about 93% wooded. The original growth was reported to be shortleaf pine. Between 1909 and 1914 large saw mills operated at Golden and at Iuka and most of the pine was cut off. However, loblolly and scrub pines are in most locations here as common as the oaks and hickories, the three groups forming the predominant forest types. On the higher ground on the west side the undergrowth is not as luxuriant as on the valley slope proper. Although the species of trees and shrubs vary considerably I was impressed by the abundance of small black gums on this slope. The oakleaf hydrangea was conspicuous at the time of my visit and the abundance of *Azalea nudiflorum* thruout the park will necessitate a return trip earlier in the spring in order to see such a large mass in bloom. Along Bear Creek cypress trees were noted.

The open areas consist of a large, gently sloping field of 35 acres across Bear Creek from and northwest of the Lodge, a 10-acre meadow below the Lodge with temporary standing water due to heavy rains, and smaller clearings aggregating about 55 acres. Clearing for almost six miles of gravelled road accounts for about 35 acres. Improvements consist of a C.C.C. Camp established in 1935, a 'Lodge' with small cleared area of approach, two cabin areas and a picnic area, all completed in 1939, and the road built in 1938 and 1939. Most of the trees remain but the areas have been cleared of undergrowth. The only influence of these on bird life to date seems to have been the appearance of the Indigo Bunting at the larger road clearings and indications of a Phoebe's nest under a wooden bridge over Maudlin's Creek. Future plans such as the Natchez Trace parkway across the north side, an artificial lake, or a waterway dam on Bear Creek should influence the bird life here.

Maudlin's Creek (Gardner Branch) is the only watercourse of consequence besides Bear Creek. It is a small branch entering the park near its northwest entrance and crossed several times by the road (thru a small wooded bottom), then it partly circles what is referred to below as the 'High

Point' before entering Bear Creek.

We visited the park in May, 1935 and 1936 (for a few hours each time) and camped with the Scouts here July 3 and 4, 1938. The list, however, is based almost entirely on the seven-day period of June 12-19, 1939. It was then decided that with a little extra effort a census could be made of the birds present and would give a more exact idea of their relative abundance. By using maps and compass and working a portion at a time we covered all of the park except the southeastern (due to threatening weather and no convenient bridges over the creek), or approximately 1,750 acres of the 2,000. In securing full coverage we depended greatly, of course, on hearing the birds, a method I consider 95% reliable at that season. During the census I recorded only three instances where a bird was seen but not heard at the time. Less than 10% were seen before they gave a call-note or song. The count as given is in terms of units,—a singing male, a pair, or a family group at one location counting equally as one. Care was taken not to duplicate. However, the density of birds recorded (44 units per 100 acres) is so low compared to more thorough censuses of much smaller areas as pubpublished in *Bird-Lore* and elsewhere that the present count can only be considered in a relative sense.

The writer recorded 56 species in the park during the week's stay. If we subtract 5 species seen passing over the park and add 2 species adequately vouched for by others we have a total of 53 summer residents for the park. If more open and varied topography adjacent is ever added to the park we can expect a list of possibly 60 species.

I am indebted to Park Supt. Frank Berry, Messrs. Cassell and Bunten and others of the staff for most courteous cooperation and to Mr. Jim Gray and 'the boys' at the Lodge. The published "Geologic History" of the park by Morse and "Botany" by Brown contributed to a fuller appreciation of the park.

TURKEY VULTURE.—The maximum number seen in the air at one time was nine on June 13. Two or more were recorded every day but the 15th. Evidences of a nest of the past season were noted under a ledge in the escarpment across Bear Creek and southeast of 'Bearded Falls'. An afternoon roost was noted across the creek from this point.

BLACK VULTURE.—One was seen the afternoon of June 13, at the south end of the park.

EASTERN RED-TAILED HAWK.—A pair of adult birds of this species were seen June 14 over the road, south of the 'High Point'. Presumably the same pair were seen on the 16th high over the open fields across Bear Creek.

EASTERN BOB-WHITE.—Not common. The unit count was eight including two pair (as 2) seen in the vicinity of the cabin. As many more were heard outside the park.

SPOTTED SANDPIPER.—If this species nests in Mississippi, along Bear Creek in the park would be a logical place to find it. Due to heavy rains the creek was out of its banks during the entire week in 1939. The only record is of a pair seen May 10, 1936, seemingly at home here. However, this species is a late arrival on its northern nesting grounds and these two may have been transients.

EASTERN MOURNING DOVE.—Recorded seven times and from the 12th to the 15th.

YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO.—Recorded eleven times and in the same period as above.

FLORIDA BARRED OWL.—An immature bird was seen June 17 in a heavily wooded spot just off the road and southwest of the 'High Point'. None were heard calling during my stay but were reported by Messrs. Berry and Cassell as being present.

CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW.—May have been more common than recorded by listening for the call-notes each evening. Four were heard along the creek in the southern part of the park, three in the cabin area, three at the north end and three in between. The birds started calling about 7:10 P.M. and ceased about 7:30 P.M., rarely calling after that. This necessitated separate trips to each part at dusk. Altogether thirteen were heard calling.

FLORIDA NIGHTHAWK.—A pair were seen over the cabin area the evening of June 13 and it is probable that they were nesting in the large field across the creek. Another pair was seen apparently nesting in a field near the road in the north end as one bird was diving repeatedly over a small bare field there on June 17. It was also seen June 15.

CHIMNEY SWIFT.—Four were seen. Several chimneys are available in the park but we did not investigate them or other possible nesting sites.

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD.—There are six scattered records for this species.

SOUTHERN FLICKER.—Rare. Two recorded in the cabin area and one northeast of same and across the river.

SOUTHERN PILEATED WOODPECKER.—One was heard on most trips south of the picnic area. On the 15th a very tame male was noted on the far side of the 'High Point'. What was possibly a third individual was heard in the wooded section northwest of camp.

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER.—Four records—one near the 'High Point' and three southward from the picnic grounds, two being on the east side of Bear Creek.

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER.—One was heard June 13 in a heavily wooded hollow in the southwest corner.

SOUTHERN DOWNY WOODPECKER.—Twelve scattered records. A cavity full of noisy young was found June 13 about 15 feet up in a broken-off tree-trunk in the rear of the C.C.C. camp; the young were still there four days later. Only one adult was seen at this location.

NORTHERN CRESTED FLYCATCHER.—Nineteen records thruout the park; can be said to be common along the wooded slopes down to Bear Creek. Records include several noisy groups, each listed as one family unit.

PHOEBE.—This is a very rare summer resident in Mississippi. Allison (1907) recorded a nest with young in a 'silica' tunnel, April 27, 1904, near Eastport, about 20 miles north of the park. We have watched especially for this species in the northern part of the state and in spring have made some special trips to suitable localities northwest and northeast of Iuka, but without success. Because of lack of time I failed to find Phoebes on my first visits to the park but the first few minutes here were sufficient to convince me that the Phoebe would be found here if it nested in the state. At the

Scout Jamboree in Washington, 1937, Scout leaders of Tupelo and Corinth, told me of finding a nest here that May, which was obviously a Phoebe's nest. On July 3, 1938, I was shown the location and an old nest of the year was found, also the remains of an older one. No birds were seen.

During my week's stay this year I made a special search for nests of the Phoebe. The species evidently nests early and then leaves the vicinity. Returning to the 1938 location which is on the escarpment just below the new picnic pavilion, I found an old nest, evidently of the season, and traces of others there and nearby. The next afternoon I heard and saw an adult bird there. No other Phoebes were seen until June 16, when I found a pair and a nest containing 2 eggs and 2 young newly hatched. The nest was located above the north (east) side of Bear Creek, back under 'Bearded Falls' a ten-foot drop with strands of moss carrying the water from a branchlet above. An older nest of the season was 20 feet east and also a trace of a third nest. Trace of another nest was found 20 yards southeast. In all about 75% of the escarpment on the west side of the creek and 40% on the east side was searched for Phoebe nests and traces of same. Three nesting localities were found on the west side and eight on the east side. Four, and probably a fifth, had nests of the season. Traces of from one to three older nests was found at all locations.

This is the only species listed for the park and this area which would typify a difference between the Tennessee Valley Hills and other topographical subdivisions of the state.

ACADIAN FLYCATCHER.—Fairly common, especially in the woods along Bear Creek. Of the 21 records a few were for the dryer upland woods, situations similar to where this species is usually found in the Iuka area, twenty miles northward.

EASTERN WOOD PEWEE.—Not common.—15 records and all of single individuals.

FLORIDA BLUE JAY.—Not common,—20 records. Five records at the northern end embraced 10 individuals.

SOUTHERN CROW.—Three or more crows were heard and seen across the river on June 13, from the bluff south of the picnic area.

CAROLINA CHICKADEE.—Fairly common. Of 19 records at least 3 were of family groups. Fairly well distributed except across the river.

TUFTED TITMOUSE.—More common than the preceding species, listing it thruout the park for a total of 27 occasions.

WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH.—There were several records in the picnic-cabin area, probably of the same individual, and one record on June 14 in the northwest section.

CAROLINA WREN.—Fairly common; 22 records.

WOOD THRUSH.—Not nearly as common as might be expected in a place apparently so suitable for this species which is a very common one in the Mid-South. The 24 records were nearly all of singing birds.

EASTERN BLUEBIRD.—Three pairs were noted as follows: near the Lodge, at the C.C.C. Camp, and across the river in the large field with a few scattered pines. An immature bird was seen on the western edge on June 14.

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER.—Common and well-distributed except across Bear Creek. Recorded on 32 occasions.

White-eyed Vireo.—Common, especially along Bear Creek and Maudlin's Creek (Gardner Branch). Recorded 55 times.

Yellow-throated Vireo.—Common as evidenced by 30 records which were well distributed.

Red-eyed Vireo.—The most abundant breeding species in the park and as usual, a persistent singer. Rarely was I out of hearing of one of these vireos. 80 records.

Black and White Warbler.—Fairly common in the immediate valley and slope above Bear Creek and a few records in the north and northwest sections. 17 records include 5 groups consisting of adults feeding immature birds out of the nest.

Northern Parula Warbler.—Two singers were separately heard and seen June 17 in the tall trees near the site of the 1938 Boy Scout camp where we recorded the species also July 3, 1938.

Sycamore Warbler.—Fairly common in the immediate valley while several were recorded singing and immature ones seen in an upland oak-hickory-pine woods about two-thirds of a mile from Bear Creek. The individuals near the picnic area were conspicuous in song and there I also was able to see the white lores of this subspecies. There were 15 records.

Northern Pine Warbler.—Uncommon. The ten records were well scattered, chiefly along the ridge from the cabin area to the camp and northwest of the latter in the wooded area mentioned under the preceding species. None were listed from the north side of the park.

Northern Prairie Warbler.—The Prairie's penetrating song was heard often and in almost all sections of this predominantly wooded territory. It was not, however, a creek side species. Records total 27.

Louisiana Water-thrush.—Uncommon. From the new footbridge south along the west side of Bear Creek the Water-thrush was recorded at three locations. Three records for the east side trips may possibly be of the same individuals. Due to the frequent and heavy rains in spring and early summer this species may not have successfully nested.

Kentucky Warbler.—Very common and well distributed although partial to the valley slopes with their heavy shrub growth. 64 records would place this species as possibly the next in abundance to the Red-eyed Vireo. Six records include groups of adults and immature birds.

Maryland Yellow-throat.—Uncommon as thickets bordering open fields were rarely encountered in the park proper. The five records were all on the north side.

Yellow-breasted Chat.—Fairly common as evidenced by 22 records.

Hooded Warbler.—Six records on the heavily wooded slope,—one at the south end, two below the cabin area, and three from the camp pump house to the 'High Point'.

American Redstart.—One was heard singing on June 15, along Bear Creek near the 'High Point'. This was the only park record altho three Redstarts were recorded the day previously near the highway bridge downstream and 1½ miles east northeast.

English Sparrow.—One was seen June 18 at a two-cell martin house (evidently taken over by the sparrows) near a farm house back from the top of the bluff and across the river from the Lodge. The location is in a tract acquired since my visit but gone over at the time. No sparrows have been recorded on the C.C.C. Camp premises.

SUMMER TANAGER.—Fairly common, less so removed from Bear Creek. 24 records.

EASTERN CARDINAL.—Only fairly common; 24 well-distributed records.

INDIGO BUNTING.—At small clearings, principally along the road which has been constructed within the past two years, this bunting was usually found. Because of its localized distribution I did not expect the records to be as high as 25 until I actually totaled them.

EASTERN GOLDFINCH.—One recorded overhead in the cabin area June 12, and two on the west side June 14, where we also saw three resting in nearby pines. On June 16, two groups of six and four, respectively, were noted at the edges of the large open field across Bear Creek and these ten probably constitute the Goldfinch population of the park at this time of year.

BACHMAN'S SPARROW.—There were 15 records of this beautiful singer, well distributed, and usually along the edges of mixed stands of pines.

EASTERN CHIPPING SPARROW.—Common and in type localities frequented by the Indigo Bunting and also those by the Bachman's Sparrow. 29 records.

EASTERN FIELD SPARROW.—Only fairly common in the park itself (21 records) but common in the more open country outside park boundaries. In only one case did I definitely see adults feeding immature birds.

The following two species are listed for the park on what we consider reliable information.

AM. WOODCOCK.—Lieut. S. N. Netherly reported that in early May he saw an adult Woodcock lead young ones across the road in the northwest section where Maudlin's Creek (Gardner Branch) crosses and recrosses the road. This species is a very rare summer resident of northeast Mississippi.

SOUTHERN SCREECH OWL.—Both this owl and the Barred Owl are reported as present in the park by Messrs. Berry and Cassell but I failed to see or hear this species during my stay.

The following species were recorded in the park, chiefly passing overhead and are not to be considered as true residents of the park proper.

GREAT BLUE HERON.—One was heard and seen the evening of June 12 as it passed westward, overhead near the water tank (cabin area).

KILLDEER.—One was heard and seen overhead at the same area but on the evening of June 13. I failed to hear or see this species in the large cultivated fields (outside the park) stretching westward from the C.C.C. camp.

PURPLE MARTIN.—A couple of females were seen June 14 just outside the park boundary at nesting cans suspended from a pole in a back lot. None were seen over the park. Until the present year this species was common in this section, many gourds and cans being provided for it. Two martins were seen overhead on July 4, 1938.

EASTERN RED-WING.—A flock of eight or ten of these blackbirds passed overhead the evening of June 12. This species is uncommon in eastern Mississippi.

ORCHARD ORIOLE.—Two of this species were heard calling and then seen, in the woods southwest of camp on June 17. Although in the park, their presence was regarded as accidental. Another was recorded outside near the northwest entrance and the species is fairly common in more open country.

Notes on additional species are also given herewith. Bewick's Wren—one in yard on highway No. 25, corner of the old entrance to the park. Eastern Mockingbird—one just outside the park, west side and others along the highway. Catbird and Brown Thrasher—in fields outside northwest park entrance and fairly common along highway. Several Catbirds heard in the town of Tishomingo and a pair of Thrashers seen in yard at southwest edge of the park. Southern Robin—three or more in town. Starling—At each of two churches with wood shingle roofs I found a Starling at a hole in the roof at the gable eaves. At one place the bird regularly brought back food and entered the opening. Red-eyed Towhee—A circuit of the surrounding countryside was made the afternoon of June 14. At Old Mingo, three-fourths of a mile northeast of the park, I found a male Towhee in thickets along a small branch. This is a very rare species in North Mississippi in summer.

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Memphis, Tennessee. September, 1939.

# THE SEASON

THE SEASON AT MEMPHIS:—During the past four weeks, the chief interest of Memphis bird students has centered around the muddy shores of Mud Lake, situated on the state line about nine miles south of the city. Observations have been plentiful, the writer together with Jim Vardaman making a total of sixteen trips to this shorebird haven during the month of August alone. Approximately a hundred species were reported in this period. During periods of high water Mud Lake extends into the trees and undergrowth bordering it but dries up toward late summer, becoming a mecca for herons and shorebirds. On Aug. 12, the writer recorded approximately 1,000 American Egrets, 200 Little Blue Herons, and 100 Wood Ibises congregated in this narrow stretch of water and occupying the entire lake. Shorebirds were lacking at this early date but this absence was made up entirely when a Willet alighted near us. This bird, the first collected here and the third for Tennessee (see *The Migrant*, 1936, p.67), is very gray in col- and is undoubtedly of the western subspecies (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus inornatus*). The following day Coffey and party recorded practically the same birds. Several Snowy Egrets were also seen and Wood Ibises had increased to 250. Eight Red-shouldered Hawks and two Red-taileds were seen soaring overhead. As our visits continued the water level of Mud Lake became lower, the heron population dwindled and shorebirds became increasingly numerous. American Egrets dwindled to as low as 15 on Aug. 30, but then increased and numbered 400 on Sept. 6. Little Blues did not exceed 25 in number from Aug. 20 to 30, and increased only slightly afterwards. Only a few Wood Ibises were seen Aug. 19 to 27 and none Aug. 28 to Sept. 3; a flock of 80 appeared Sept. 6, the date of our last visit.——Pectoral Sandpipers were as usual the most abundant, 20 on Aug. 15, and from 100 on Aug. 19 to 600 on Sept. 3. Lesser Yellowlegs increased from 25 to 150 over the same period. The maximum reached by the 'peeps' were Least Sandpiper, 200, and Semipalmated Sandpiper, 150. A few Western Sandpipers were recorded from Aug. 27 to Sept. 6, at least eight being seen Sept. 3. The relatively long bills of these birds were easily distinguishable and one was collected Aug. 27. Semipalmated Plovers averaged 15 to 30 between Aug. 19 and Sept. 3.——Aside from these common species quite a few uncommon ones were recorded. Another Willet was observed on Aug. 24 feeding with a flock of Yellowlegs. When flushed he uttered his alarm in loud and penetrating notes. Six Dowitchers, rare in this locality, also were found among the numerous shorebirds. Apparently the same Willet and 10 Dowitchers were observed the following day. Since then Dowitchers have been observed on each trip and 2 collected on Aug. 27 proved to be of the Eastern subspecies. On Aug. 28, a new visitor appeared in the form of a Wilson's Phalarope. The bird was feeding among a flock of Yellowlegs and its white plumage was most conspicuous when seen among the gray forms of the Yellowlegs. The bird was difficult to appproach and it was not until Aug. 30 that it was collected. This is the fifth record for this area.——Stilt Sandpipers were noted only as solitary individuals until Sept. 3, when 20 were noted among Yellowlegs. The birds seemed to prefer deeper water than the Yellowlegs and this fact usually placed them apart from the other shorebirds with only a few Yellowlegs venturing out to the greater depth. A habit of swinging its often submerged bill from side to side was often characteristic of the Stilt and produced an interesting effect. Fifteen of these birds were again observed on Sept. 6, our last visit to the lake.——Black Terns were seen on several occasions and usually with Least Terns which ranged in number from 2 to 10. Caspian Terns were recorded on Aug. 25, when 4 were seen and later on Sept. 2, when 2 were observed flying leisurely over the lake.——Swallows were present in ever-increasing numbers along the levee and on Sept. 3, Ganier and party saw nearly a thousand, the majority being Tree Swallows. A Cliff Swallow seen on Mud Lake, Sept. 2, was our only seasonal record for this species.——Blue-winged Teal put in their first appearance on Aug. 25, when a flock of over forty settled among the shorebirds on Mud Lake.——On Sept. 3, numerous warblers were observed at the lake, among them several rare ones. A Worm-eating Warbler was seen by Burdick and immediately afterwards we approached a small plainly-marked bird which proved to be an immature male Wilson's Warbler. Again on Sept. 6, we visited the same locality and found 6 Wilson's Warblers feeding with 2 Canada Warblers. Only two of the Wilson's Warblers were in adult male plumage, the others were immatures with only a trace of black on the head.——As usual, Overton Park furnished its share of records, with most of them being in the form of warblers. On Aug. 26, Welch recorded 7 Black and White Warblers and one Canada Warbler. On the same date he also observed 3 Mississippi Kites soaring above the trees in the park. On Sept. 5, 20 Magnolia Warblers and 8 Black and White Warblers were seen there by Welch and Walker. Parula Warblers were present in numbers all thru August.——EUGENE WALLACE, Memphis.

KNOXVILLE AREA:—A flock of 25 Wood Ducks was reported to have been at a large pond near Louisville, Tenn. from Apr. 15 to 20. A check-up by Johnson on Apr. 23, showed these birds had paired off and only 2 or 3 pair were seen.——The Spring Field Day at Island Home was a success from several viewpoints and Mr. Ijams was well pleased after all reports were in. 23 nests representing 19 species were listed during the day. There was no way of determining the nests of the Purple Martin but Mr. Ijams thought that 16 pair at the three gourd-poles was a safe estimate of the number of Martins present at that time.——A Blackburnian Warbler was a late straggler at Island Home on June 5 (Reed) and the next day an unusual warbler song was investigated and proved to be that of a Parula. A pair of these birds was seen in the same group of trees on June 16 by Miss Reed and the writer. Another Parula, in song, was observed on July 8 at Lake Andrew Jackson.——On Aug. 12, Mrs. Walker and the writer found what we decided was a female Wilson's Warbler, which if correctly identified, ushers in the fall migration. The small size, the yellow cheek and beady black eye, and the complete absence of wing bars and tail markings apparently eliminates the female Hooded Warbler which is a summer resident here.——Water birds at Lake Andrew Jackson are not easily checked on because of the willow-growths that present excellent hiding places. The last spring visit to the lake was on Apr. 16, at which time the Coot and a Pintail Duck were recorded. No other visit was made to the Lake until June 17. On July 14, a wounded (or molting) male Pintail was flushed in the woods about 25 feet from a small pond, one end of which is connected with the lake by a marshy strip of ground. The bird could not fly; however it did make its way thru the rank grass very rapidly. On the next visit to the lake we failed to flush the Pintail; by chance I came upon the dead bird in a bad state of decay. A Coot was recorded on July 8 and 29.

Other water birds found were a Least Bittern on July 8 and a Pied-bill Grebe on Aug. 12. The immature Little Blue Herons arrived as usual about the first of July and have been present at intervals until the present writing, i.e. Aug. 12. Red-wings, which were plentiful on July 22, were gone from the lake one week later. About 5 of the estimated 7 adult Green Herons had left by the same time.——We undertook another summer census at the lake with trips on June 25, July 1, 8, 14, 21, 29, August 6 and 12 and recorded 48, 33, 53, 44, 21, 34, 49 and 48 species respectively, with an eight trip total of 70 species. The area and types of territory are the same as listed in *The Migrant* for September, 1938. The ten most common species for the lake for this summer were: Starling, Song Sparrow, Purple Grackle, Carolina Chickadee, Crow, Purple Martin, Red-wing, Field Sparrow, Bluebird, and Mourning Dove.——Late nest notes are seldom mentioned in this type of report but on Aug. 6, the writer found young birds of three species in the yard around the house. They were Field Sparrow, Robin and Mockingbird. ——The mention of young birds brings back the memories of an incident at our feeding shelf about May 20. We had just put out a supply of bread crumbs in order to take advantage of the feeding activity while we ourselves were at breakfast. The first flurry of activity was over, all the larger crumbs were gone when a Song Sparrow alighted and began to eat. It had been busy pecking at the crumbs for about a minute when another Song Sparrow perched on the opposite edge of the board some 18 inches away. Immediately the first bird quit eating and hopped across the board to the late arrival where it sat with its mouth gaping awaiting to be fed. And it continued to sit until the mother bird (I presume) gathered some crumbs from the board and fed it. Then they both flew back to the brier patch.—W. M. WALKER, JR., Knoxville.

JOHNSON CITY REGION:—Two items worthy of notice have interested us during this season. The first was the observation of the Hermit Thrush in song on April 16. The birds were migrating and perhaps mating as they traveled. This is the first record that we have of the song of this species. The Wood Thrush, the Gray-cheeked Thrush and the Veery all sing for us but the Hermit Thrush and Olive-backed Thrushes sing not at all in our vicinity.——The second incident was the observation of a pair of Least Bitterns at Cox's Lake on Aug. 27. These very rare birds were migrating and stopped over enroute, long enough to give us a very interesting and spectacular observation. They should be classed as a very rare migrant in this section. This is probably due to the very limited extent of our marsh land.—BRUCE P. TYLER AND ROBERT B. LYLE, Johnson City.

## THE ROUND TABLE

REELFOOT HERONRY NOTES:—A party composed of Miss Edna Norton, Miss Dorothy Arnold, Franklin McCamey and the writer, spent the day of June 15, 1939, in the 'Cranetown' located at the north end of Big Ronaldson Slough at Reelfoot Lake. Observations were made from a platform in the top of a tall cypress tree near the center of the colony (built by Karl Maslowski in 1937), and from the ground which was under water, one to five feet deep.

Considerable time was used to take photographs and to band some of the young birds which had fallen below. If large enough, these birds apparently are able to care for themselves. One of these, an American Egret, was noted to be feeding on dead fish, many of which were greatly macerated, and which were evidently disgorged by the nestlings above or dropped during feeding maneuvers. Nesting activities were in full progress. The juvenile birds varied from those apparently just ready to leave the nest to others apparently just hatched. No accurate count of the adult birds was attempted as their number was in a state of flux thruout the day. The following are the estimated number of nests: American Egret, 600; Double-crested Cormorant, 250; Ward's Heron, 150; Black-crowned Night Heron, 50; Anhinga, 40. These numbers compare favorably with those of Miss Eva O. Gersbacher who made a comprehensive study of the colony in 1938 (*Journal Tenn. Acad. Sci.*, Vol. XIV, No. 1, pp. 162-180). The number of nesting Cormorants seems to vary from year to year. Observations as to the distribution of the five species throughout the colony corresponded to those of Miss Gersbacher. The Anhingas and Black-crowned Night Herons tended to congregate in more or less isolated groups at the south end of the heronry, the latter nesting lower, in the maples and smaller cypress trees. While exploring the south end of the colony, McCamey and the writer flushed five Little Blue Herons —3 adults, 1 immature, and 1 mottled. These are interesting records for this time of the year. No evidence of their nesting could be found. As yet, there are no records of this species nesting at the Reelfoot colonies. Also, in this vicinity, a Wood Duck's nest was discovered by McCamey. One adult was seen and heard.——The following are other species seen in and around the colony: Turkey Vulture, 4; Black Vulture, 20; Pileated Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 1; Crested Flycatcher, 1; Acadian Flycatcher, 6; Crow, 5; Carolina Chickadee, 12; Wood Thrush, 3; Red-eyed Vireo, 5; Prothonotary Warbler, 30; Parula Warbler, 2; Cerulean Warbler, 6; Sycamore Warbler, 2; Kentucky Warbler, 6; Hooded Warbler, 5; Redstart, 12; Bronzed Grackle, 40; Dickcissels were abundant along the highways west and south of Reelfoot Lake itself.

WENDELL L. WHITTEMORE, Univ. of Tenn. Medical School, Memphis.

A CAPTIVE GREEN HERON:—Last June 30th, William Simpson, Conrad Jamison, 'Tot' Lawrence, and I, happened upon and caught an adult Green Heron (*Butorides virescens virescens*) at the Radnor Lake 'Sanctuary'. Upon examination we found he had a freshly broken wing and was unable to fly. We took him to my house where he was banded and the wing put in a splint. We found that he was perfectly contented in his new home,—a small flying cage. The Heron ate eagerly as many minnows as were offered, —he accepted three hundred one day. In accordance with his greediness we promptly named him 'Glutton'. Every four or five days a tub-full of minnows had to be seined from a creek eight miles away. Whether they were dead or alive, Glutton gobbled up minnows. He refused to eat minnow-sized chunks of store-bought fish, but at intervals we forced him to eat some of it to take the place of part of his minnow diet.——After two weeks of captivity Glutton's wing had mended and we removed the splint. He was taken to Mill Creek in hopes of releasing him if he could fly. Before turning our long-necked friend free we treated him to a farewell feast of nearly his weight in minnows,—at least one hundred and fifty of them. Glutton's belly was full and tight; his pouch was half full of minnows—he had not been able to resist that last hundred. Needless to say, he couldn't get off the ground.——Glutton was taken back home and kept a week longer. On July 29, only 22 days after he was first found, we took him again to Mill Creek. This time he was given a farewell feast of only fifty minnows. When released he flew across the creek in true heron style and landed in a nearby tree. Thus a Green Heron recovered from a badly broken wing and lived to fly again unimpaired in flight.——The impression that Green Herons are almost exclusively fish-eaters must not be inferred. After observing Glutton's habits when he was given the liberty of our fish pool and Mill Creek, I am convinced that fish are a minor part of their regular diet. Green Herons are unable to catch fish in water deeper than 3" to 4"—they find water spiders, water bugs, crayfish, flies, dragonflies, moths, mosquitoes, and toads much more easily obtained. Any insect that flies within a foot of a Green Heron is as good at dead.—ARTHUR MCMURRAY, Nashville.

NOTES ON A CROW NEST:—On May 7, 1939, while walking through a field near my home, east of Memphis, I found a nest which contained six young Crows about two days old. This nest was located in a tall cedar near a small patch of woods. On inquiring about the neighborhood, I was told that the Crows had nested here for about four or five years. On the ground surrounding the nest I counted about sixty field mice skulls and numerous small bones. The appearance of these bones indicated that they were the remains of meals of last year (1938 nesting season). Assuming that these rodents had been a part of the Crow's food supply, I decided to investigate further. In a large field near the nest I found countless numbers of holes which were probably inlets to the network of tunnels made by field mice and shrews. On May 27, I banded the six young birds which were to help keep these rodents, as well as injurious insects in check in years to come.—AUSTIN BURDICK, JR., Memphis.

NOTE: The U. S. Biological Survey's pamphlet, "The Crow in Relation to Agriculture" by E. R. Kalmbach, includes the following statement with regard to food habits: "In feeding on mammals, the Crow supplements the good work of the hawks and owls by tending to hold in check rodent pests. Such food forms 1.6 percent of the diet of adult Crows and 8.8 percent of nestlings. The favorite mammal food of the young is young cottontail rabbits." The Survey now has under way an even more complete investigation of this much maligned bird.—EDITOR.

TENNESSEE-KENTUCKY NOTES:—Mating reactions of soaring hawks, probably Broad-wingeds, were observed near Springfield, Tenn., Jan. 27, of this year and on Mar. 3, Sparrow Hawks were seen mating near Cedar Hill, Tenn. At this date Mourning Doves has been observed showing mating reactions for some time in this locality.——On June 12, a Mourning Dove was disturbed from her nest near Paducah, Ky. The nest which was built on the sloping side of a gully bank against the base of a Lespedeza bicolor bush contained one young bird apparently about two days old. One egg had been washed or knocked from the nest and lay in the bottom of the gully below it. The writer returned to the area on June 22. At this time the young bird had left the nest, but both it and the adult were nearby. In attempting to distract attention from her young the adult exhibited Quail-like actions, fluttering about, dragging her wing, etc.——Near Morganfield, Ky., on June 14, a large flock of Black and Turkey Vultures were disturbed from a hog carcass. After getting into the air they separated into two flocks by species.

On the same date a Great Blue Heron rookery containing about 50 nests was observed near Morganfield. The nests were in the tops of tall Cypress trees. No young birds could be seen but about 100 adults were counted in the vicinity.——On July 8, approximately 300 Wood Ducks were counted on Swan Pond near Wickliffe, Ky. All were adults.—FORREST V. DURAND, Springfield.

ROBIN INCIDENTS:—In late April of this year, at the 'Elmwood' bird banding station at Nashville, I noticed a pair of banded Robins hunting nesting material. So I proceeded to supply a goodly mount of string, paper napkins, and small bits of cut-up silk undies. They very happily gathered up every bit I placed on the lawn, and built in a small tree between our sidewalk and the curb. When the nest was about completed some one poked it down (while I was busy in the back part of the house) and so we began again from scratch. That nest was completed and two eggs deposited. Then two English Sparrows literally 'rooted' those eggs to the ground. I got the nest down while the female Robin sat in a nearby tree watching. While there she dropped an egg to the ground. The sparrows immediately began building in the coveted crotch. The next day the Robin came to the same limb on which she had perched the first time and at the same hour, and dropped the second egg—making a clutch of four that were lost.——The Robins then began on a third nest in an arbor covered with honeysuckle in my back yard, and brought off a successful family of four. I banded them all and now have three baby Robins and the parents in the yard. Needless to say I am disposing of all the English Sparrows I trap,—sometimes as many as fifteen at once.—MRS. MILLER DISMUKES, Nashville.

PULASKI NOTES:—Immature Brown Thrashers, Catbirds, Bronzed Grackles and Cardinals have been abundant on our street this summer. The first three species have entered my traps and those of my neighbor, the Rev. Mr. Johnson, very readily, although the traps have not been set more than two or three days each week. Cardinals, as usual, have paid little attention to my offerings which often included cantaloupe seed. I have been particularly interested in finding so many Grackles nesting both in town and in the country as I, alone of the T.O.S. members in this section, listed the Bronzed Grackle as one of our most common summer residents. As I had not been at home for several summers I feared I might have been mistaken, but now I am convinced that it is near the top of the list in Pulaski.——At the Alfred Claggetts' home the porch with its vines and ferns always attracts their friends but no one has enjoyed it this summer more than the Carolina Wren who reared her family in the beautiful stand of ivy beside the door and who sat unafraid as all callers inspected and admired her artistic home.—MRS. SAM ROGERS, Pulaski.

NESTING OF SYCAMORE AND PINE WARBLERS AT KNOXVILLE:—On April 30, 1939, while attending the Field Day of the Knoxville Chapter, I located a nest of each of these species, in process of construction in pine trees in the Island Home area. One of the Sycamore Warblers had been seen during the morning by Mrs. Frank Leonhard, on the ground with nest material in its bill. On hearing of this later in the day, I took a position on the hill above, so as to keep the nearby scattered pine trees under surveillance. After a few minutes wait, one of the birds was seen to dart thru the air and disappear in the top of a pine. By watching subsequent trips the nest was located, tho almost completely hidden, about 60 feet up and 8 feet below the top of the large shortleaf pine. It was 3 feet from the end of the branch on which it was saddled and well hidden by foliage from above. Tho late in the afternoon, trips with material were being made about every ten minutes.

On May 10, I was again in Knoxville and arranged to visit the two nests above mentioned. That of the Sycamore had been completed meanwhile and now held 4 eggs, incubated about one day. The bird remained upon the nest as I approached and I looked her over carefully, at three feet distant, noting plainly that the lores were white instead of yellow and thereby determining that it was the westerly subspecies, *Dendroica dominica albilora.* The bird moved off the nest when nearly touched, taking a position just below it. She flew away when I affixed my rope to the limb in order to draw it closer, so as to photograph the nest in situ. The nest was similar to a number I have found near Nashville, all built in sycamore trees. It was a neatly woven cup, 3" wide by 2" high, with inside width of 1.7" and inside depth of 1.4" Its light grey color externally was caused by cobwebs and cottony substances woven in among the shreds of light grey as well as brown fibres and bristles. Four tan willow catkins were fixed to the exterior as tho for ornament. The inside lining was nearly white, of long and short hairs, and a few soft feathers were woven just inside the rim. A few hundred yards away there were many sycamores along the Tennessee River, trees which this species usually favors for its habitat.

The nest of the Northern Pine Warbler, *Dendroica pinus pinus*, had been found by watching the bird as it gathered material from dead weed stalks and then flying into a nearby pine. This nest was located at the edge of the H. P. Ijams pine grove, 35 feet from the ground, near the top of the tree and near the extremity of a limb. The bird made numerous trips to the nest on the April date. When I climbed the tree on May 1, I was disappointed to find that it had been robbed, probably by Blue Jays. There were tiny bits of shell in the nest and the soft lining had been disarranged and some material removed. The exterior of this nest differed considerably from that of the Sycamore Warbler, in that its exterior had a reddish appearance due to its composition,—largely of red inner fibres of pine bark.—ALBERT F. GANIER, Nashville.

NOTES ON THE PILEATED WOODPECKER:—During the past three years, I have had the pleasure of having a pair of Pileated Woodpeckers present in the vicinity of my home. I had searched for their nest each year and until this year I had been unsuccessful. This spring I discovered their nest on April 1. It was located in a dead sweet gum about 40 feet from the ground. I was unable to count the eggs or see the interior of the nest because the tree was too rotten to climb. When first discovered, the female was flushed from the nest and I was able to approach within fifteen feet of her. Every other time that I went to the nest, I saw the male's head protruding from the nesting cavity. These birds which are usually so very wild, showed no fear of me when I was near their nest. On May 11, I was unable to find the old birds, so I presume that the young had left the nest. The parents must have taken the young to a less inhabited area for safety in rearing them. ——AUSTIN BURDICK, JR., Yates Avenue, Memphis.

THE MIGRANT

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*"The simple truth about birds is interesting enough,*
*it is not necessary to go beyond it."*

## ENDOWMENT FUND STARTED

Definite plans for providing an endowment fund for the work of the Society were discussed at the annual meeting of the directors, following the Spring Field Day at Nashville, May 14. A report was given by Mr. George Woodring, chairman of the endowment committee. Since members of the affiliated Tennessee Audubon Society thought it desirable that educational and conservational objectives be sought thru the framework of the state-wide organization of the Tennessee Ornithological Society, it was their opinion that a fund of $500, held by them, be made available to the T. O. S. provided the latter shows that it can raise a similar amount. The directors of the T. O. S. decided that while an appeal will be made to all persons who may be interested in the aims and ideals of the Society, the time was opportune to match the proposed gift by a direct appeal to our members. We hope to have fifty members pledge $10 each and thus start our fund. At the May meeting the campaign was off to a good start with many pledging to do their part. A list of the pledges to date will be published in a later issue.

All funds will be kept intact so that the income from same will be available for projects of the Society while the principal can continue to grow.

Here is our chance to put our Tennessee organization on a parity with other state and local clubs and to extend its usefulness. Our country and our state are becoming more conservation-minded than ever before and the T. O. S. should be one of the leaders in encouraging an appreciation of our wildlife and the proper use of our natural resources. Pledges or contributions should be sent to Mr. George B. Woodring, Hillsboro Branch, American National Bank, Nashville.

**The Blue Grass Chapter cordially invites all members to attend its Fall Field Day, October 29.** It will be held at Osceola, the farm of Dr. O. J. Porter, the chapter president. To reach Osceola, turn east two miles north of Columbia (Jackson Highway) at Foster's filling station. After driving one mile on Bear Creek Pike, pass into Osceola thru a rock-arched gateway.

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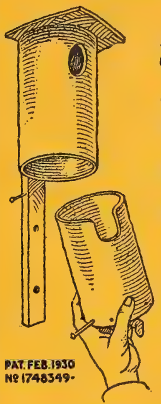

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AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY OF THE ZOOLOGY OF TENNESSEE AND THE TENNESSEE VALLEY REGION" by Charles S. Shoup. Reprinted from *The American Midland Naturalist*, Vol. 21, No. 3, May, 1939, pp. 583-635. Price 50 cents; order from Vanderbilt University Bookstore, Nashville.

This is a successor to 'A Bibliography of The Zoology of Tennessee' by the same author in *The Journal of The Tennessee Academy of Science* (Vol. XI, No. 1, pp. 53-67) which contained 273 titles. The present list is a compilation of approximately 1,000 titles of papers which contain descriptions of species or lists of species collected in the region covered. Areas in Kentucky near the headwaters of the Cumberland River are also included. An index for the 216 localities covered by the list is a convenient aid. Slightly over 200 titles are given in the section on 'Birds'. A large number of these are from *The Migrant* but references to most short notes are omitted. The Xmas Census lists published in *Bird-Lore* are also omitted. In passing I might state that the reference to Memphis, (1928) Anderson, is of a short article in *Bird-Lore* under caption of 'From Young Observers' and too limited to be correct on the status of certain species. Also Mrs. Coffey should have been credited with 'A Trip to Mud Lake' (1932). The writer has done a great service to those interested in the zoology of our state and the list fills a long felt want.—B. C.

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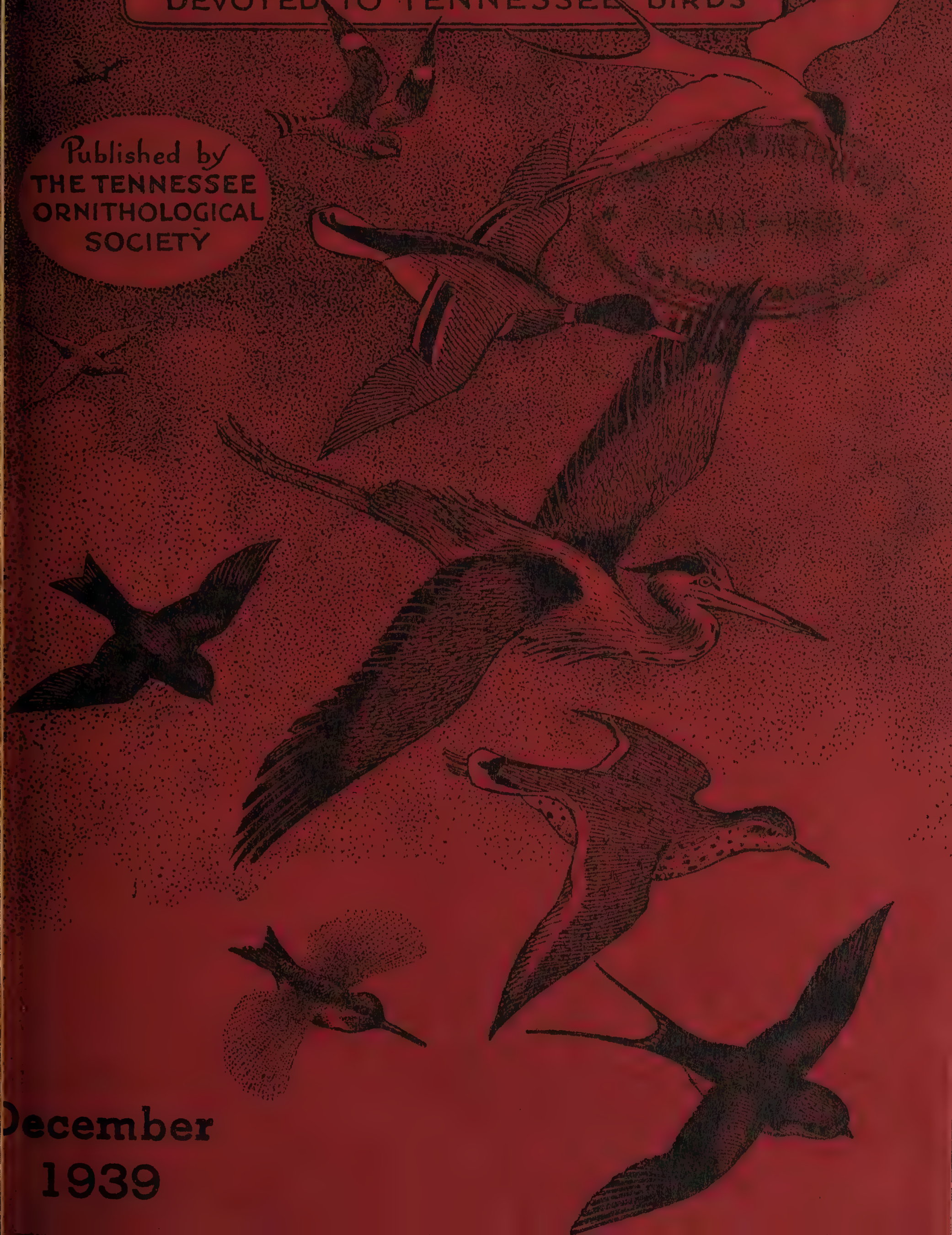

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# THE MIGRANT

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## BIRD NOTES FROM A SICKROOM

By Jesse M. Shaver

On June 9, 1939, the author was unfortunate in suffering a fracture of the neck of the femur. He returned from the hospital on June 21 and has been confined to his home at 1022 Eighteenth Avenue South, Nashville, since that time. His home is in an unusually large yard having much shrubbery and trees, some of which are close to the windows and the porches. The birds in the yard that could be seen from the windows and from the porches were a constant source of pleasure and delight. Some of their habits appear interesting enough to report in this paper.

A family of Blue Jays out of the nest for some weeks stayed almost constantly in some red oak trees (*Quercus Schneckii*) in the yard from the beginning of this period into August. In late August and early September, these birds foraged more widely but hardly a day passed that they were not seen at some time in these trees. Early in the season, they ate and fed their young mainly on adult May beetles (probably *Phyllophaga sp.*) which were abundant in the tree crowns. Early in July, the May beetles disappeared and June bugs (*Allorhina nitida*) took their place and became equally abundant. From this time until their disappearance at the end of July, June bugs appeared to constitute the principal food of the Jays. This feeding habit of these birds is a distinct benefit to man since both adult May beetles and June bugs feed on the foliage of oak trees and as larvae (grub worms) are very destructive to the roots of grasses and other plants. It also recalls an incident that occurred in July, 1922. Blue Jays were reported as destroying eggs in a hen house at Knapp Farm. At the author's request, some of these birds were shot and brought into the laboratory. They were opened up and examined in order to determine whether they had been eating eggs. In no case were any parts of eggs discovered. Instead their gizzards were crammed with adult June bugs.

The method used by Blue Jays in eating June bugs was to catch the insect in the beak and then transfer it to a limb of a tree. While it was held down by one foot, it was hammered with the beak working like a trip hammer. This method of reducing the insect to small pieces is very similar to that used by Blue Jays in eating the acorns of the oak tree in September.

During June, July and the first half of August, Blue Jays were rather quiet, not giving the jay-call nor singing in a minor key. Later they began to give the jay-call and to sing occasionally their minor song.

DEC 20

Two Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were in the yard during most of July and August. In July the trumpet creeper (*Tecoma radicans*) was in flower in the yard. This is known to be a favorite hummingbird flower and might have been the cause of their presence at this time. However, since none of these flowers could be seen from the windows, it was not possible to determine whether in this instance they were being visited by Hummingbirds. In August, the white single Althea with the red center (*Hibiscus syriacus*) was in flower and Hummingbirds were observed to visit it frequently. It was not possible to determine whether nectar or small insects were taken at these visits.

On several occasions, attacks by these Hummingbirds on two Carolina Chickadees, who were in the habit of foraging through the trees and shrubbery, were observed. A Hummingbird would be sitting quietly on a limb in the open, as is its habit, when a Chickadee would appear ten feet or more away and busily work up and down a limb in search of insects. Suddenly the Hummingbird would dart at the Chickadee, missing him by only a fraction of an inch. Turning quickly, the Hummingbird would dart again and again at the Chickadee. Each time the Chickadee would move slightly around the limb and turn his head to face the charging Hummingbird. This continued for some time until either the Chickadee flew away or the Hummingbird desisted and flew to a limb and perched as before. No attacks by these Hummingbirds on other birds were observed. This behavior against other birds has been noted before near the Hummingbird nest but never away from the nest (Hummingbirds do not nest in our yard or anywhere near). If it is asumed that Hummingbirds recognize and attack only their enemies, the Chickadee would be regarded as the hummingbird's enemy. It might be that Chickadees destroy eggs and young of the Hummingbird when they encounter them in working out small limbs in search for insects. The last Hummingbird seen in the yard was on September 20, visiting the flowers of the Mexican sunflower.

In midsummer, a wild black cherry (*Prunus serotina*) tree in the yard ripened a large crop of fruit. These berries were eaten by numerous Robins, a pair of Catbirds that had earlier nested nearby, and occasionally by a pair of Brown Thrashers, a Mockingbird family and a Cardinal family.

June, July, and August were unusually cool this summer. Mockingbirds were never heard to sing during this time but in the first part of September they began their low, autumn song. Catbirds sang some during the end of June and then stopped until September when they occasionally sang their low, whisper song. They disappeared about September 5. Brown Thrashers were never once heard to sing during the summer but in September they sang their whisper song at least once. They were last seen on October 1. Robins sang consistently in June and some during the first part of July. They were not heard to sing during the last part of July and during August. Occasionally they sang in September. Cardinals sang all summer but less frequently as the season advanced and scarcely at all in September. The Maryland Yellow-throat across the street was very quiet all summer and was heard to sing only once,—about the middle of July. The beautiful male Baltimore Oriole that foraged in the yard all summer disappeared at the end of August. The first part of the summer he sang ever now and then but for most the summer he contented himself with occasional calls. Consistent summer singers were the Carolina Wren and Bewick's Wren. A Warbling Vireo sang a great deal during the last of June, quit singing in July but resumed early in the morning in early September. He was not heard or seen after September 16. Yellow-billed Cuckoos called very frequently in late June, in July, and during most of August. They were observed to feed upon the August generation of the fall webworm (*Hypanthia cunea*) which was very abundant. The author sometime ago watched a Yellow-billed Cuckoo feed upon woolly caterpillars from a distance of less than ten feet. The bird took the caterpillar crosswise in his bill, took out a piece near the middle and swallowed it but left behind the two ends. This was the customary method of feeding of this particular bird at that particular time. It may be the typical method of feeding of the species but these observations were not extensive enough to establish this as a fact.

Two Flickers visited the yard to feed on ants in the driveway and to drink at the bathing fountain. However, they were never observed to take a bath. Is it possible that Flickers never take baths?

There were a few birds that were seen in the yard only a few times during the summer such as Crested Flycatcher, Sparrow Hawk, Nighthawk, Chipping Sparrow, Towhee, and Red-headed Woodpecker. Others not mentioned previously that were constantly present are: Bronzed Grackle, Starling, Chimney Swift, and Downy Woodpecker. Purple Martins were common overhead at the end of June and the first of July. Altogether twenty-six species were observed in the yard during the summer.

GEORGE PEABODY COLLEGE FOR TEACHERS, Nashville, October 12, 1939.

# PREDATORS IN THEIR RELATION TO BIRD LIFE

BY BRUCE P. TYLER

*FOREWORD: Without accipitrine hawks it is unlikely that the Grouse and Quail would have become the splendid, fast birds that they are. Without the mountain lion and the wolf it is unlikely that the deer would have attained their present grace and speed. There would not have been the need for that matchless sinew and split-second reaction which is the pride of sportsmen and naturalists alike. Without swift, cunning predators to pursue them, vegetarian forms tend to become sluggish in nature.*

*How deperately our hawks and owls need to be understood.*

*In the following paper Mr. Tyler presents in a most convincing manner the case for the raptorial birds.*—C. W. QUAINTANCE, Department of Biology, East Tennessee State Teachers College.

What are predators and what is their function relative to bird life? The word predator has in it the idea of taking booty or prey, or one thus gaining a livelihood, a robber. In animal life it refers to animals which live upon other animals.

In discussing predators affecting bird life, it might be well to give attention first to the more general aspect of the subject. It appears that if nature is undisturbed, a balance of life will be established—that is to say—there will be enough insects for the birds and enough birds for the snakes, hawks, owls, squirrels, etc. There will be enough squirrels, rabbits etc. for the hawks and eagles.

In insect life the steps of predation may not be so evident except to the specialist. For instance:—

In our gardens we have the beautiful gladiolus infested with a minute insect, the thrips. The tiny insect is just visible to the naked eye, but highly destructive to the bloom of the plant it infests. Modern science combats the thrips by liberating a predator to prey upon it. The enemy, a true predator, is harmless to the flowers but deadly to the thrips, and thus renders inestimable service to mankind.

The Japanese beetle, such a tremendous nuisance on our Eastern Seaboard, ran riot for some years and continues unto this day. Its radius of activity seems to be advancing about ten miles annually and its devastation is worst in its most recent haunt. The reason being that nature is controlling its increase in the territory first affected, while in new territory it flourishes without molestation. Some sad day this pest will reach Tennessee, unless effective methods—not yet discovered—stay its advance. It is reported to me that in Japan the beetle is not such a great pest as it is here, the reason being that nature has built up enemies which control it.

In retrospection let us look at the Colorado potato beetle. Once it was a terrible scourge, now it is under control, due to the joint efforts of man and nature. This year, 1939, I have in my garden a planting of late potatoes on ground where potatoes have not been grown for some years and I find no beetles. I have seen but one beetle there this season, which, needless to say, was promptly dispatched. The natural enemies of the Mexican bean beetle are fast catching up with it. Today it is not nearly so destructive as it was a few years ago.

I believe that there was no such thing as the depredation of the army worm in our Western States until the hunters had unduly reduced the number of the Prairie Chickens, thereby permitting the enormous fecundity of these insects to be partially unchecked. The plague of grasshoppers in Utah was 'pinched in the bud' by their predators—the gulls. Thus it is in nature—'dog eat dog'—yet there is no destruction of species, but a perfect balance reigns. The hypothesis is that birds if left unmolested will increase to the point of a balanced avifauna.

The principal purpose of this paper is the staying of the slaughter of the hawks, the chief avian predators. They have been so completely destroyed in certain areas that one is seldom seen. The hawks cannot present a 100 per cent 'bill of health', yet they are a very necessary part in the balancing of the bird life, and their beneficial properties far exceed their destructiveness. Let us examine scientific investigations of the diet of our hawks, as summarized by John B. May (1939) in 'Hawks Of North America' from previous publications, manuscripts, and letters of many authorities. The total number of stomachs examined and the number in which mammals, etc., were found is given.

| Species | Examined | Mammals | Poultry or Game | Other Birds | Insects | Miscl. | Empty |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sharp-shinned Hawk | 1030 | 28 | 16 | 844 | 45 | 0 | 106 |
| Cooper's Hawk | 422 | 65 | 78 | 146 | 5 | 16 | 129 |
| Red-tailed Hawk | 1013 | 857 | 112 | 85 | 92 | 158 | 146 |
| Red-shouldered Hawk | 444 | 287 | 7 | 25 | 54 | 165 | 38 |
| Broad-winged Hawk | 254 | 95 | 0 | 17 | 114 | 110 | 20 |
| Marsh Hawk | 418 | 259 | 10 | 176 | 11 | 28 | 26 |
| Duck Hawk (rare) | 102 | 3 | 11 | 70 | 12 | 0 | 9 |
| Sparrow Hawk | 427 | 147 | 0 | 69 | 269 | 43 | 29 |

The real value of predators in nature is the cleaning up of the stock of the species preyed upon, the destroying of the old, the wounded, and the less vigorous. Thus reproduction is secured from the best stock, and there is more abundant food suply for the survivors. If inferior stock abounds there may be shortage of food, weakening the species locally.

There will be no general rehabilitation of our quail until the destruction of the hawks is discontinued and their increase encouraged, to the end that once more the balance of nature may be reestablished and the arch enemy of the quail, the rodents, held in check.

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From 'Food Habits of Common Hawks' by W. L. McAtee we quote:

". . . . the relations between predators and prey constitute a maze that the most fully informed cannot thread unerringly, and one that all others rather than attempt by force had much better avoid entirely. Interference with animal relationships has effects that cannot be undone, and should be undertaken only after the fullest consideration of all the information obtainable."

". . . . A rule to be borne in mind, even when hawk control is found necessary, is that aggressive action should be directed against the offending individuals only, not against the entire race".

Frederick C. Lincoln in 'The Migration of American Birds' says:

"There is a tendency for man to blame predators for his own mishandling of wild-life resources, ignoring the fact that he is the most predatory of all animal species."

"Control of over-abundant predacious animals is a matter that is best left in the hands of trained biologists. Certainly the constant crusade against such fine birds as our hawks and owls is a little short of sheer idiocy."

We also quote from the 'Proceedings of Provincial Dominion Wild Life Conference':

". . . . the full native complement of animal life should be left absolutely undisturbed, save to the extent incidental to making the park accessible to the visiting public. I mean exactly this, that no so-called 'vermin', such as wildcats, coyotes, weasels, hawks, or owls should as a rule ever be killed inside of National Park boundaries. Within large parks such as Yosemite and Sequoia, not even the mountain lion should be disturbed. All animals belong in the territory, have been there from time immemorial, as parts of the perfectly normal biotic complex, to the presence of which the population of every other native animal is, by reason of its long-established and wholly adequate rate of reproduction, adjusted." (Dr. Joseph Grinnell).

"Predation is normal, not exceptional, and when man undertakes to tamper with what is normal as between one animal and another, especially when only part of the truth is understood, he is starting a chain of events the results of which cannot be foretold and which will almost certainly be surprising and injurious to man's best interests."

"The natural control of the herbivorous animals whether mice, rabbits, or deer is a task given by nature to the predators. Man will interfere at his peril."

"Game administrators should do everything that is possible to meet mistaken ideas about birds of prey and to discourage the killing of them. We cannot afford to do without the services of these birds in the killing of rodents, of which they are one of the most efficient natural checks. Even if some of the larger birds do prey upon game birds, it is not proven that they do harm, and on general principles it is quite probably they do good to the species upon which they prey."

JOHNSON CITY, November, 1939.

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# RUBY TREE

BY BENJ. R. WARRINER

For a good many years I have tried to decide solely for my own satisfaction which is the prettiest of all the birds I know. First I have selected one, then I have switched to another. It is a matter that I have not been able to settle, due, of course, to the fact that many of the birds are truly beautiful. At last, however, I have at least been able to narrow the problem down, not to a particular kind, but to a certain spot on a certain kind. I do not say that the male Ruby-throated Hummingbird is the handsomest or prettiest among all the birds, but I do say that the patch of burnished red that covers his throat is the most beautiful bit of color I have ever seen anywhere.

During an eleven o'clock church service last summer, a Ruby-throated male flew through a window at the Fillmore Street Presbyterian Church here in Corinth. The little fellow beat his body against the walls until finally he fell exhausted on a window sill. In a few minutes he died. A friend brought the body to me and I had my first opportunity to hold in my hands a 'Ruby-throat'.

When the light fell at a certain angle upon the bird's throat there was no color there, but a slight change in the position in which I held the tiny body brought out a faint trace of red; then another turn and there was a lovely ruby the size of a five-cent piece, made up of scores of scale-like facets, each a small but brilliant gem. Each had been polished to shine like a miniature metallic sun whose rays startled the eye with their brilliant beauty.

My grandson, aged six, assisted me in finding a little tin box to use for a casket. We placed the Ruby-throat in it and dug a grave in the backyard. We agreed that early next spring we would go into the woods and find a young wild cherry tree and plant it at the spot. If our plans materialize, in a few years many birds will feast on the delectable fruit, but none will ever know that it is a tree not of cherries but of rubies.

CORINTH, MISS., December, 1939.

# PROTHONOTARY WARBLER NESTING STUDIES AT REELFOOT LAKE

BY LAWRENCE H. WALKINSHAW

In undertaking a nesting study of the Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*) at Reelfoot Lake this year I made three trips to the lake from my home in Battle Creek, Michigan. The first was on April 9, when I placed thirty bird houses along the canal south of the Spillway. On that date R. W. Morris, a local resident, showed me a nest of the Prothonotary Warbler where it had been tipped out of an upturned motorboat. I visited the area a second time during the last half of May and found eggs in the majority of the nests. Evidently most of the egg laying started the first half of May. During the summer twenty-four nests were found in the thirty bird houses I had placed and an additional seventeen nests were discovered elsewhere.

The breeding season lasted from the first egg laid on April 6 until August 10, when the last young left the nest, a period of 126 days. This last date was sent to me by Carlos Woods who examined the bird houses periodically for me. Most of the May nests contained complements of five eggs and those in June four eggs each. Out of 30 nests studied, 19 or 63.3% were successful. Of 139 eggs the outcome of which were known, 78 young successfully left the nest. This is a percentage of 56.11% and is much higher than for our Michigan studies. The incubation period of 19 eggs in four nests ranged between 12 and 13½ days, averaging 13 days, 10 hours. The 14 young left the nest within 9 to 12 days after hatching, averaging about 11 days. The average size based on thirty-two sets of eggs was 4.65 eggs per set. Eighty-eight eggs averaged 17.87x14.25 millimeters in measurement and 1.94 grams in weight.

Thirty adults were marked with Biological Survey bands and most of them with colored bands. Sixty nestlings were banded. Two of the females were found attempting second broods in the same bird houses where they raised an earlier brood. In both cases I was not able to tell whether they did raise the second brood. One pair raised a brood in one bird house then a second brood in July in another house about 150 yards distant. Woods caught the adult female on the second nest; she bore band number 39-54147 which I had previously placed on her at an earlier nest in another house.

BATTLE CREEK, MICHIGAN, September 5, 1939.

NOTE—A very comprehensive article by Dr. Walkinshaw on nesting studies of the Prothonotary Warbler near Battle Creek, Michigan, was published in *Bird-Banding*, Vol. IX, January, 1939, pp. 32-46. This species is abundant at Reelfoot Lake and we are glad to see such a project initiated there by Dr. Walkinshaw. In our June issue we reprinted an article on Reelfoot Lake by Frank A. Pitelka of the University of Illinois and this current article, hurriedly compiled at our request, again emphasizes the appeal of this Tennessee lake to naturalists of other states.—EDITOR.

# AS OTHER SEE US

In *The Migrant* for June, 1938, we quoted an interesting account of Dr. Louis Leroy's Prothonotary Warblers which was given in 'STROLLING with ELDON ROARK', a very popular and widely read column of the Memphis Press-Scimitar. Below we again quote from Mr. Roark as he writes, September 28, 1939.

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"NO DULL HOUR FOR ORNITHOLOGISTS—"I doubt that any hobbyists in and around Memphis have more fun than the ornithologists. Life holds no dull hours for them.

"On holidays and week-ends they form little parties and hike thru the woods and fields, or hide in trees or in the bushes around ponds and lakes, spying on the business and domestic life of the birds and keeping detailed records of their studies.

"You fishermen may think you get a thrill when you land an eight-pound bass, but you just don't know anything. You ought to see an ornithologist when he discoveres the first Dowitcher of the season, or when he walks up unexpectedly upon a Wilson's Phalarope.

"And don't think the ornithologists' fun is confined to the hikes. Oh, no! They have plenty of work to keep them busy during their evenings at home. They work on their records, play games of identifying birds from their pictures, plan expeditions and projects, read books on their favorite subject.

"The ornithologists have their favorite lakes, just as the fishermen and hunters have. Probably the most popular spot near Memphis is Mud Lake, south of the city on the Tennessee-Mississippi line. Eugene Wallace, writing in the current issue of The Migrant, official magazine of the Tennessee Ornithological Society, reports that he and Jim Vardaman made 16 trips to Mud Lake in August.

"1300 WATER BIRDS IN ONE PLACE—'During periods of high water Mud Lake extends into the trees and undergrowth bordering it,' he says, 'but dries up toward late summer, becoming a mecca for herons and shorebirds. On Aug. 12 I recorded approximately 1000 American Egrets, 200 Little Blue Herons and 100 Wood Ibises congregated in this narrow stretch of water. Shorebirds were lacking at this early date, but this absence was made up entirely when a Willet alighted near us. This bird, the first collected here and the third for Tennessee, is very gray and is undoubtedly of the western species (Catoptrophorus semipalmatus inornatus).

'The following day Coffey and party recorded practically the same birds. Several Snowy Egrets were also seen and Wood Ibises had increased to 250. Eight Red-shouldered Hawks and two Red-taileds were seen soaring overhead . . . .'

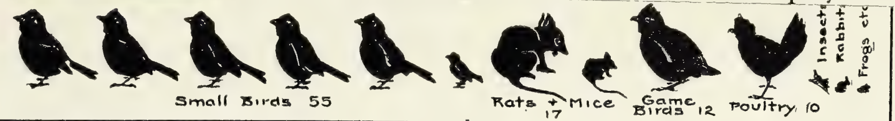
"And in like manner the report goes on giving all the details of the 16 trips to Mud Lake. Those fellows make a note of every bird—almost every tweet—they hear. And when those reports are printed, they eat it up.

'They have such a good time that I'm thinking of building me a blind at Mud Lake and taking up the hobby.'

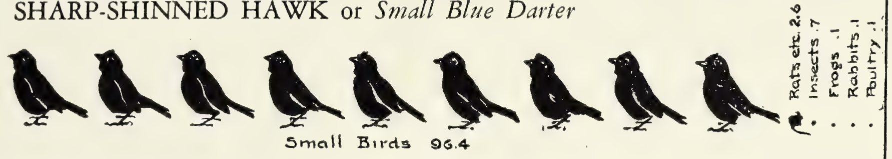
# HAWKS

# Our Wildlife is in Your Hands

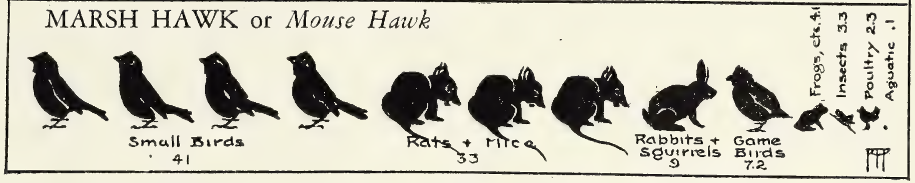
Nature has a place and a need for every Native Hawk. They are all part of our wildlife, and each plays an essential part in regulating the abundance of



SHARP-SHINNED HAWK or *Small Blue Darter*



MARSH HAWK or *Mouse Hawk*



## BIRD HAWKS

FLAP AND GLIDE FLIGHT
PERCHING UNDER COVER
DIRECT RAPID PURSUIT
SMALL SIZE
LONG TAIL
SHORT, BLUNT WINGS

## MARSH HAWK

LOW COURSING FLIGHT
LONG WINGS AND TAIL
HIGH WING ANGLE

### *Species With Simple Feeding Habits:*

| | |
|---|---|
| **VULTURES** | These useful scavengers eat only dead animals. |
| **BALD EAGLE** | Our National Emblem is such a slow and heavy flier, that it lives chiefly as a scavenger, eating fish, carrion, and any sick or crippled birds and animals it is able to catch. |
| **OSPREY** | Lives entirely on fish, chiefly non-commercial varieties that swim near enough to the surface to be caught. |

### *Species That Are Generally Very Rare:*

| | |
|---|---|
| **GOSHAWK** | A northern Hawk, coming south only in certain years. Eats poultry, game, rabbits, squirrels and mice. |
| **DUCK HAWK** | Eats shore birds, sparrows, and other non-game birds. Now very rare. Don't shoot it! |
| **PIGEON HAWK** | Eats small birds and insects. Is never common, and is too small to harm game. |

**Additional copies and further information may be obtained from the National Association of Audubon Societies, 1775 Broadway, New York, N. Y.**

Printed in U. S. A.

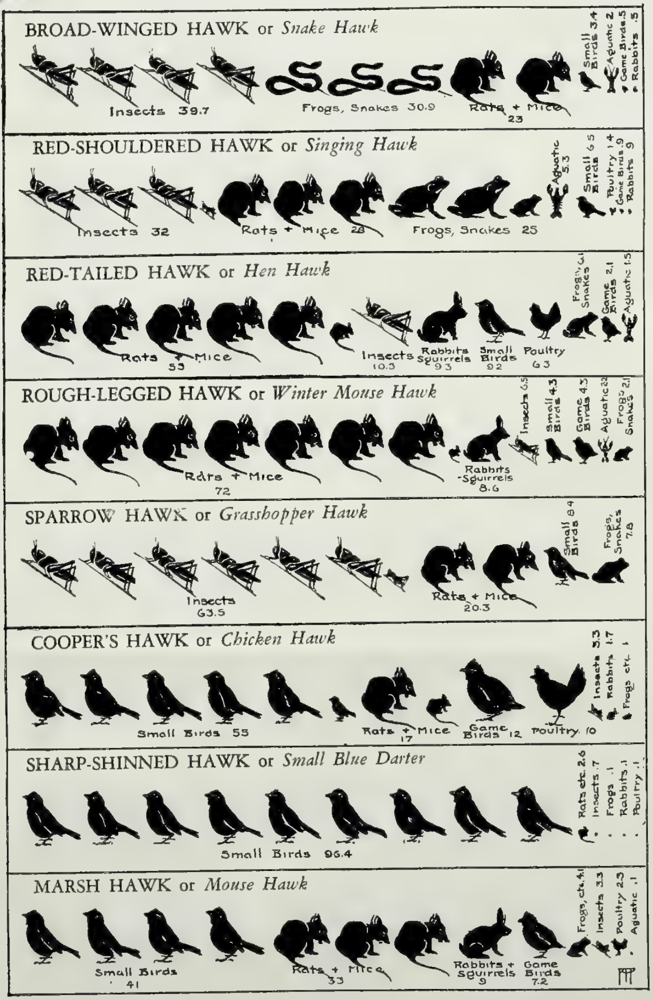
Circular 25

# WHAT HAWKS EAT

## *Our Wildlife is in Your Hands*

Nature has a place and a need for every Native Hawk. They are all part of our wildlife, and each plays an essential part in regulating the abundance of the animals on which they prey.

**Based on studies by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, covering contents of 5,185 hawk stomachs. (See U.S.D.A. Circular No. 370, "Food Habits of Common Hawks," published 1935, price 5c, from Supt. of Documents, Washington, D. C.)**



## KNOW YOUR HAWKS

*TRY TO INCREASE THE ONES THAT ARE NEEDED TO HELP US PRESERVE HEALTHY BALANCES IN OUR WILDLIFE POPULATIONS.*

### MOUSE HAWKS

SOARING IN CIRCLES
PERCHING IN OPEN
LARGE SIZE
TAMENESS
SLOW FLIGHT
WIDE WINGS
SHORT, BROAD TAIL

### FALCONS

RAPID FLIGHT
LONG, POINTED WINGS
DEEP WING STROKE
STREAMLINED SHAPE

### BIRD HAWKS

FLAP AND GLIDE FLIGHT
PERCHING UNDER COVER
DIRECT RAPID PURSUIT
SMALL SIZE
LONG TAIL
SHORT, BLUNT WINGS

### MARSH HAWK

LOW COURSING FLIGHT
LONG WINGS AND TAIL
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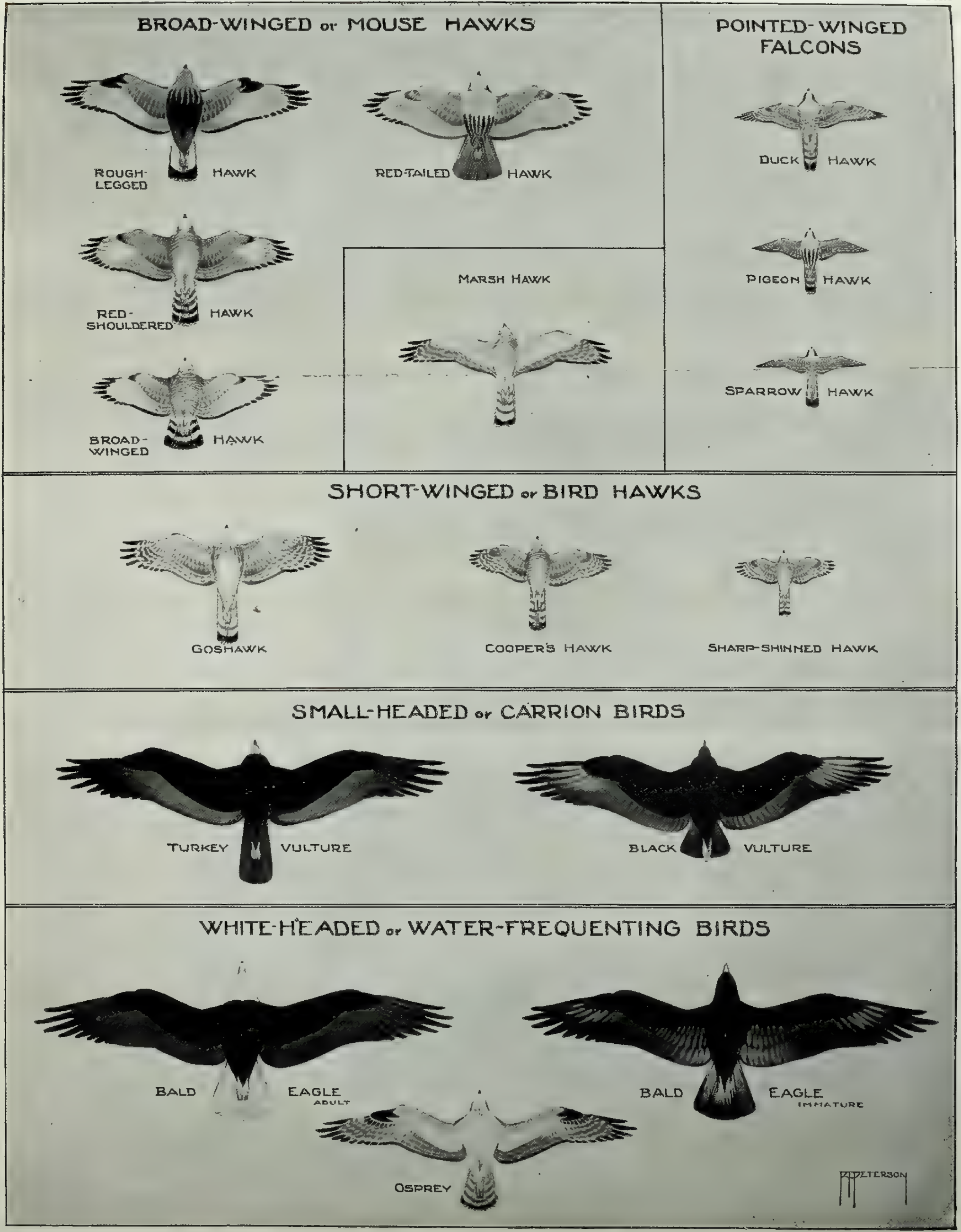
Printed in U. S. A.

Circular 25

# EASTERN HAWKS—*What They Look Like in the Air*

Atlantic Coast West to the Great Plains

All Birds Drawn to Same Scale



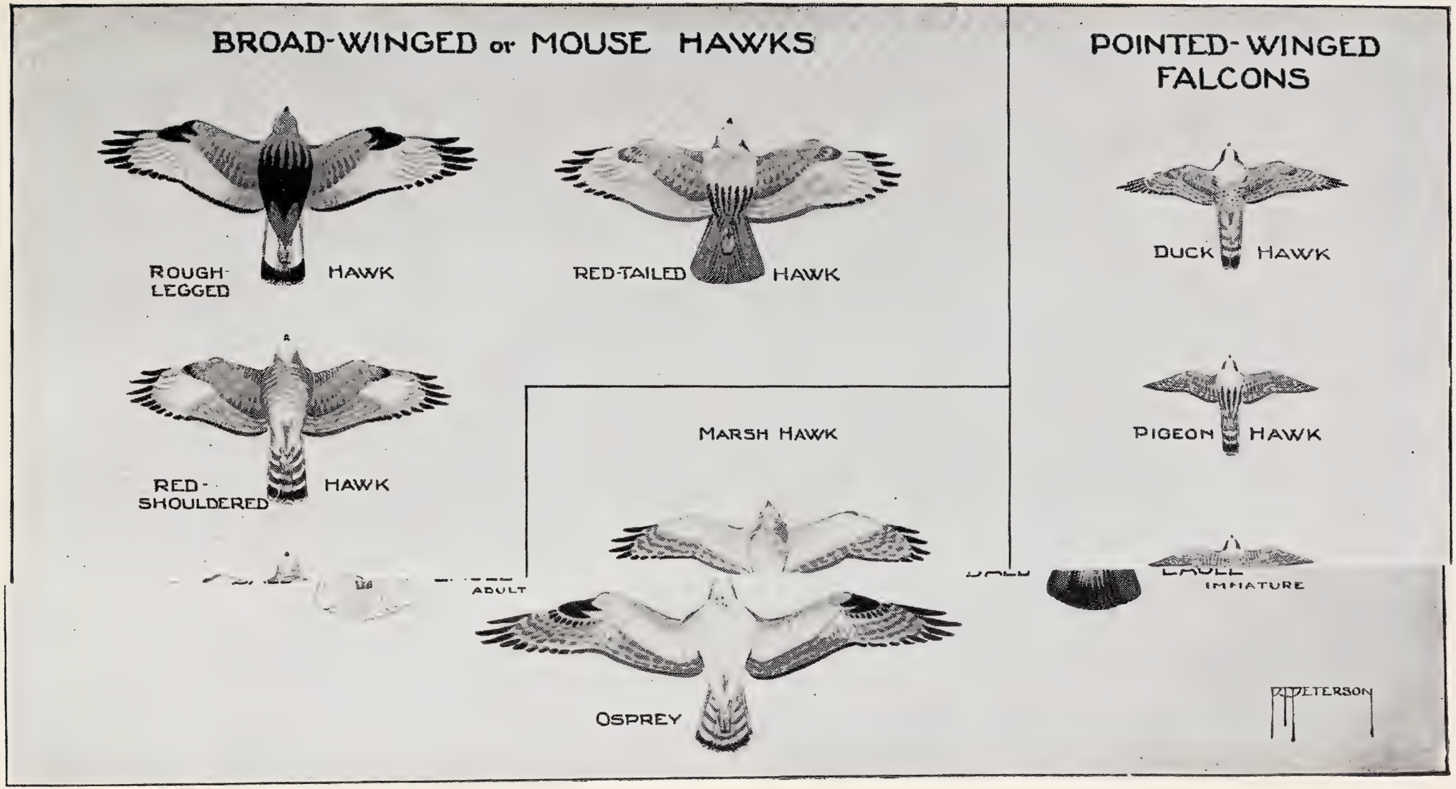
BROAD-WINGED or MOUSE HAWKS
ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK
RED-TAILED HAWK
RED-SHOULDERED HAWK
BROAD-WINGED HAWK
MARSH HAWK
POINTED-WINGED FALCONS
DUCK HAWK
PIGEON HAWK
SPARROW HAWK
SHORT-WINGED or BIRD HAWKS
GOSHAWK
COOPER'S HAWK
SHARP-SHINNED HAWK
SMALL-HEADED or CARRION BIRDS
TURKEY VULTURE
BLACK VULTURE
WHITE-HEADED or WATER-FREQUENTING BIRDS
BALD EAGLE ADULT
BALD EAGLE IMMATURE
OSPREY
PETERSON

*Some of These Hawks are Among Our Most Useful Birds*

# EASTERN HAWKS—*What They Look Like in the Air*

Atlantic Coast West to the Great Plains

All Birds Drawn to Same Scale


BROAD-WINGED or MOUSE HAWKS
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DUCK HAWK
RED-SHOULDERED HAWK
MARSH HAWK
PIGEON HAWK
ADULT
IMMATURE
OSPREY
RT PETERSON

*Some of These Hawks are Among Our Most Useful Birds*

# MORE ABOUT THE BLUEBIRD NEST-BOX PROJECT

### BY AMELIA R. LASKEY

As last year the Bluebird nest-box project in Percy Warner Park has been carefully observed throughout the 1939 season. Fifty-five trips, representing almost two hundred hours in the field, were personally made to examine the boxes, record progress in nesting activities, band the young and remove the old nest material. Arthur McMurray cooperated enthusiastically during the summer vacation and rendered valuable assistance. As in 1938 these field data were tabulated, analyzed, and presented before the Wilson Ornithological Club in a paper which will probably be published in *The Wilson Bulletin.* However a very brief summary of some of the results is given herewith for those who do not see the other journal.

The 1939 season opened with 38 boxes ready for use but 18 were added at various times during March and April with the help of Arthur McMurray, William Simpson, and Conrad Jamison. Of these 56 boxes, 53 were used at least once by Bluebirds although the new boxes were placed too late in the spring for best results. Bluebirds investigate nest sites during winter and early spring in Tennessee and usually by March have selected their nesting cavity and are busy building nests and defending territory.

This year the nesting season started from two to four weeks later than in 1938 as weather conditions were not so favorable. Therefore Bluebird nesting activities were carried on into late August. A number of park improvements such as road paving and building of entrance gates were in progress this season, and disturbed the occupants of nearby boxes, causing a number of desertions. Notwithstanding the various handicaps, 290 nestlings matured this year. This is an increase of 25 over last year and makes a total of 811 young for the four years that boxes have been made available.

In two-thirds of the 134 nesting attempts females were captured for identification and of these 67 individuals, 13 had been banded while brooding in 1937 or 1938. Eight of these were occupying the same boxes used in previous years. The occupants of Boxes 9 and 22 were using them for the third consecutive year. Nine of the brooding females of this year had been banded as nestlings in the park in 1937 or 1938.

Plans are already made for next season and work has been started which it is hoped will make the coming year still more successful. Several additional boxes have been placed and a number moved to more desirable locations. The work is to be completed this month so that by early spring about 70 Bluebird boxes will be ready for those delightful little birds. In addition, a number of smaller boxes were placed in the wooded sections of the park with the hope of enticing Chickadees, Titmice, Wrens, and other small birds to build in them.

NASHVILLE, TENN., December, 1939.

# THE SEASON

MEMPHIS AREA:—Chimney Swifts were uncommon until after Oct. 1 and only 2200 were banded, the smallest number since 1934. After a few days' apparent absence we noticed a flock of about 50 downtown on Oct. 26 and 21 Swifts there the next night. We did not see them there on our next visit, Oct. 30. Fordyce Mitchel reported about 100 at Sacred Heart chimney on Oct. 27.——The first Ring-billed Gull was seen Nov. 2, a late date, and the species has not appeared often on the Wolf River directly in front of town.——Field work has been slack since Mud Lake, our favorite haunt at this season, has been dry. Austin Burdick, Jr. furnishes several records: Joe Mason saw 10 Red-shouldered Hawks migrating overhead about 10 A.M., Sept. 23. The first White-throats were seen Oct. 10; White-crowns on Oct. 16 altho they didn't appear at his Yates Ave. banding station until Oct. 21. The latter species is very local but we seem to find them more readily during recent years. The fall field day at Shelby Forest, Oct. 29, was a delightful outing. Three Pied-billed Grebes were seen on Piersol Lake and several flocks of Double-crested Cormorants were seen moving south. Daytime reports of geese made by casual observers in recent seasons were often mistakenly based on flocks of this species which were also seen at the same time by our Scout naturalists. Burdick's group on the field day went down to the river and recorded: Great Blue Heron, 10; Mallard, 20; Black Duck, 8; Lesser Scaup, 3; Green-winged Teal, 8; Ruddy Duck, 2; Herring Gull, 26; G. Yellowlegs, 7; Tree Swallow, 5,000; Starling, 10,000.——Burdick reports of special interest 26 Bufflehead at Old River near Hughes, Ark., Oct. 30; 500 Ruddy Ducks on Horseshoe Lake (Ark.), Nov. 6; 350 L. Scaup and Ring-necked Ducks in front of town on Nov. 12; 225 Cormorants, 2 Golden-eyes, 1 Woodcock, 2 Great Horned Owls, and 16 Rusty Blackbirds at Old River on Nov. 12.——On Oct. 15 we found a Phoebe, Blue-headed Vireo and Oven-bird in Overton Park.——We examined an immature Red-tailed Hawk shot near Stuttgart, Ark. about Dec. 10; the underparts were unusually white and the crown was white save for a few feathers tipped with brown.——BEN COFFEY, Memphis.

NASHVILLE AREA:—All migration has taken place relatively normally here. A late summer drouth extending thru early fall and comparatively mild weather caused many migrants to pass thru unseen. On Oct. 22 the Nashville chapter held its annual fall field trip, visiting the new Montgomery Bell State Park which is about 35 miles southwest of Nashville. 60 species were listed that day. The variety of water birds found there on the newly constructed 53-acre lake was most pleasing. The following were listed: 6 Wood Ducks, 7 Lesser Scaups, 20 Ring-necked Ducks, 5 Blue-winged Teals, 10 Coots, 1 Hooded Merganser, 3 Horned Grebes, 16 Pied-billed Grebes, 2 Blue Geese. The Blue Geese were immature ones and were very unwary. About 200 Snow Geese were seen flying high overhead. Among the other birds listed were the Lesser Yellowlegs, Woodcock, Red-tailed Hawk, Marsh Hawk, Short-billed Marsh Wren, Winter Wren, Brown Thrasher, Hermit Thrush, Fox Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, and Swamp Sparrow.——Geese were seen and heard mostly on Oct. 20, 21, and 22. A local newspaper printed a picture of a single flock of 189 geese that flew over on Oct. 20. Conrad Jamison saw flocks of 74 and 80 on Oct. 21.——4 Little Blue Herons, one an adult, were present at Radnor Lake during the last days of August and the first week of September. 2 American Egrets were also seen there during that period. At least 2 Double-crested Cormorants were present in late September and the first days of October. A lone Cormorant was seen on Dec. 3 (Ganier). A Great Blue Heron has remained there all season.——The great majority of Chimney Swifts left before Oct. 15 although Mrs. Laskey and crew trapped and banded a flock of nearly 500 on Oct. 22. Mrs. Laskey's group banded about 8500 swifts this fall and retrapped more than 1000 of the 15,500 banded last fall. Bill Simpson and Conrad Jamison saw the last Swifts reported in middle Tennessee,—namely 3 on Oct. 29 near Columbia.——Flocks of Mourning Doves seem to have been scarce this fall; they apparently chose to vacate this area soon after the opening of the dove shooting season on Sept. 1. H. C. Monk reports having seen a tail-less Brown Thrasher Nov. 19 and again Nov. 22. 15 Blue Jays were seen migrating together over the city on Sept. 26.——An injured American Bittern that was found on the Lebanon Road was placed in Mrs. Laskey's hands Nov. 1 by Dr. Vaughn. The Bittern's left wing, which was broken in 3 places, has now healed; in all probability, however, the bird will never again be capable of flight. Meanwhile, Mrs. Laskey is debating as to what fate holds in store for her rapacious guest.——A local bird-lover recently paid a dollar for a Great Horned Owl, to a trapper who had caught it in a steel trap. It was given to Mrs. Laskey who banded and cared for it several days, after which it was released.——Robins and Starlings have been very abundant all fall, probably as a result of a successful hackberry crop. Bronzed Grackles migrated southward at their usual time, being practically all gone by mid-November.—ARTHUR MCMURRAY, Nashville.

KNOXVILLE AREA:—The fall season has been unusually dry and slightly above normal in respect to temperature. Neither of these conditions is conducive to migration 'waves' and according to my own observations and reports from others, we found only a steady migration season. The first Marsh Hawk was reported about ten days later than usual, or on Sept. 3. A flock, or flocks, of Nighthawks varying from 15 to 50 in number remained in the Sharps Ridge area of Knoxville from Sept. 16 to Sept. 30. None were reported after the first week of October.——Trips to Lake Andrew Jackson during the summer months revealed only one pair of Catbirds. However, on Sept. 23, an estimated dozen birds were distributed thruout the territory, all busily feeding on wild grapes, pokeberries, weed seeds, and insects which they found among the willows along the lake shore.——Over a period of several months everyone experiences some unusual event, which for me was a hawk migration. The situation, briefly, is that the writer lives over the hill approximately one-half mile south of Mr. H. P. Ijams. About 9 o'clock on the morning of Sept. 24 Mr. Ijams phoned me to look at a group of hawks that were circling overhead. I rushed out and looked up but nothing was in sight. Then I began looking in the direction of Mr. Ijams' place; still no hawks in sight. About this time Mrs. Walker saw them far to the south of us. With the aid of the binoculars we were able to identify three birds as Red-tailed Hawks. All seven that were in sight were Buteos; they circled high and drifted rapidly to the south. Within 4 or 5 minutes from the time they were sighted they were mere specks in the sky, even thru the binoculars. Later Mr. Ijams told me the birds were south of his house when he first saw them. The big oak in his front yard impaired the view but he counted at least ten hawks and felt sure there were more in the group.——The season moves on, and on Oct. 10 we find a belated Warbling Vireo singing feebly among the leafless hackberry trees along First Creek. Three days later a lonely Hummingbird was seen at the Ijams' greenhouse.——Pipits appear to be more plentiful this fall, while to date there have been no reports on flocks of Purple Finch. Mrs. Meyer found the Palm Warbler 'in nice numbers' at Woodlawn Cemetery from November 12 to 18 inclusive.——Reports of large flocks of ducks on Norris Lake from Nov. 4 to 11 coincided with the increase of ducks on Lake Andrew Jackson and on the Tennessee River.——A Loon made an error in judgment and broke into print in one of the local papers. On Nov. 9 a Mr. Cannon was driving along the Rutledge Pike about ten miles east of Knoxville when he noticed a large bird struggling in the ditch along the roadside. An investigation revealed a bird thoroughly bewildered but apparently unhurt. The bird was brought to Mr. Ijams who identified it as a Common Loon. It was photographed and an article about the incident appeared in print. That night the Loon was released on the Tennessee River near Island Home, where it remained for a couple of days.——It is of further interest to report that in addition to the Loon two Pied-billed Grebes have been picked up unhurt on the Rutledge Pike this fall and brought to Knoxville for identification. This road is an old type penetration asphalt surface and the 'shine' of the asphalt must resemble water to the birds in the sky. Since the Grebe and the Loon cannot take flight unless on water, once they alight they are practically doomed if not found and taken to water.—W. M. WALKER, Knoxville.

# THE ROUND TABLE

BARN OWL NESTS NEAR NASHVILLE:—On the morning of April 15, 1939. Leo Rippy and I went to the site where Jack Calhoun found the Barn Owl on the Christmas census last year. I could not see the bottom of the hollow but I found fresh pellets on a ledge near the top. That afternoon Steve Lawrence and I returned to the tree with a rope. I let myself down into the hollow and found the old bird, two young birds, and three eggs. The oldest of the fledglings was about four weeks old, so that incubation evidently began about March 25. I banded the old bird and left. On the Spring Field Day we flushed the old bird in order to get her on the list.—On Dec. 3, 1939, Conrad Jamison and I, while enroute to Radnor Lake, were attracted to a large hollow tree near Woodmont Boulevard by the unusual number of Crows flying around it. Upon investigation we found in the hollow an adult Barn Owl and two young ones about 16 and 20 days old respectively. This would establish the date of the laying of the first egg as about Oct. 23. We obtained bands from Mrs. Laskey and banded all of them. The old bird was quite docile but the young ones were very hard to handle, throwing themselves on their backs and hissing violently.——Both nests were in large hollow trees. The earlier one was in a tree about 25 feet tall and 3 feet in diameter. The entrance to the cavity was 20 feet above the ground but the cavity extended down to within 4 feet of the ground. The late fall nest was in a tree about 60 feet tall and 4 feet in diameter. The young were on the litter in the cavity about 6 feet below its entrance which was 20 feet above the ground.——According to the records of H. C. Monk, only two nesting sites of this species have been previously found in the Nashville district. One of these was found by Dr. Vaughn on April 15, 1922, in a hollow tree limb over a lawn on Franklin Road. At the time it contained eggs. The other site was found by Vernon Sharp, Jr. on May 16, 1926, in a cave in the side of a cliff. It contained six eggs.——Both of the 1939 nesting sites were verified by Dr. Vaughn and Mr. Ganier.—WM. SIMPSON, Nashville.

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BARN OWL NOTES:— The unusual find reported above by Wm. Simpson, of a Barn Owl's nest with young on Dec. 3, was followed on Dec. 6 by a report of four more of these 'monkey-faced' owls at a point about two miles farther east. The latter birds were making headquarters in a hollow limb about 70 feet up in a large elm near the Franklin pike. Apparently two were parent birds and two were nearly grown young, judging from the noise the latter made while begging for food. In fact, this noise became so annoying that irate householders below found their slumbers disturbed, shot one of the old birds and threatened the others. A bit of missionary work was promptly done in their behalf.——On Dec. 2, a Barn Owl was shot near Dickson, Tenn. and came into the hands of Mr. W. P. Morrison who sent it to me. The writer prepared the specimen for his collection and found it to be a male. This bird was not in breeding condition so it was probably a transient.—A. F. GANIER, Nashville.

NOTE:—The above species has proved most erratic in its nesting activities. While early spring is the usual time, there are a number of records in other states of late fall nests of this owl. See also *The Migrant*, 1933, p. 49 and 1935, p. 72.—EDITOR.

---

YELLOW PALM WARBLER IN MID-WINTER:—Three of these birds were observed on Jan. 1, 1939, about five miles northwest of Springfield, Tenn., by G. R. Mayfield, H. C. Monk, Leo Rippy and the writer. This sub-species (*Dendroica palmarum hypocrysea*) was not included in the writer's list of the birds of Tennessee because its range had been assigned to the Atlantic coast states The birds were flitting among the buttonwillow bushes at the edge of a small marsh, at mid-day. We observed them at from 30 to 60 feet, noting the yellowing underparts and their tail jerking habit. A week later I returned to this two-acre marsh in order to collect a specimen for verification and this I succeeded in doing. Four of the birds were present. The winter home of the Yellow Palm Warbler is given by authorities as from Florida to Louisiana so the above record would seem considerably north of its normal winter range.—ALBERT F. GANIER, Nashville.

YELLOW PALM WARBLERS AT JOHNSON CITY:—During the winter of 1938-1939 there appeared at Johnson City a considerable number of Yellow Palm Warblers. Notations of this should have been made in the 1938 Christmas Census but it was not reported because we were not sure as to the subspecies. However, our doubts were removed after we had opportunity to discuss the observation with Dr. Arthur A. Allen. Examination of the last Christmas Census reveals that the bird was observed at only one other reporting station in Tennessee, namely, Springfield. Here these warblers were observed in a flock of some twenty-five to forty birds near Cox's Lake and singly in gardens in Johnson City. We hope to have them with us again this winter and will keep a sharp lookout for them.—BRUCE P. TYLER and ROBERT B. LYLE, Johnson City.

LATE NESTS IN 1939 AND BOB-WHITE BEHAVIOR:—With the cooperation of several observers, a number of late nestings have been noted, the young banded, or data obtained on their development. On July 30, along the Harpeth River near Linden, a White-eyed Vireo brooded two nestlings 4 or 5 days old and a Yellow-breasted Chat had 3 nestlings nearly ready to leave. In the Belle Meade section, 3 Mockingbird nests with young were found in August as follows: Aug. 1, 4 nestlings about 9 days old; Aug. 4, 3 young leaving a nest; Aug. 11, 1 nestling ready to leave its nest. On Aug. 12, 3 Carolina Wren fledglings left their nest in a garage. During August, 11 nests in the Warner Park Bluebird boxes contained eggs or young, two of the broods not leaving until the last week of the month. A Field Sparrow nest in a boxwood beside the driveway at the home of Fred Webber contained a set of 2 eggs which had not hatched when last noted the morning of Aug. 12, but 6 days later the young were seen leaving as the parents called them from the nest bush.——Five Mourning Dove nests were noted during September and the last week of August in Nashville. From two of them, broods of two were seen leaving on Sept. 12. On Oct. 12, 4 Bob-white, not more than half-grown, were caught in a trap at the home banding station. As they were examined, the parents ran in circles about 12 feet away, giving short call-notes; the mother bird flopped about as if injured. The chicks, with one exception being too small to wear the proper size band, were soon released and ran quickly into the shrubs in the opposite direction from their parents who were apparently trying to attract my attention to themselves. This observation is much like one made on Aug. 8, 1935 under similar circumstances when a parent dragged itself about a hundred feet across the lawn and the released chicks ran the other way into tall weeds.—AMELIA R. LASKEY, Nashville.

# THE MIGRANT

A QUARTERLY JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE STUDY OF TENNESSEE BIRDS.
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**We Take This Occasion to Thank Our Contributors for Their Cooperation and to Wish Our Members a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.**

'BIRDS OF TENNESSEE IN VERSE AND STORY' has recently been issued by the Educational Service, Department of Conservation, Nashville, and furnishes a much needed elementary bird study booklet for the use of teachers and classes who include topics on bird life and related conservation subjects in their programs. Several pages necessarily touch briefly on points of general interest. Thirty species of birds are discussed individually, including a bit of verse for each. The kinds listed were limited to those for which the well-known Arm and Hammer Soda pictures were available,—10,000 sets being furnished by Church and Dwight. These cards, from paintings by Fuertes, considered one of the best bird artists of all time, are to be pasted in the booklet in their proper places. The list includes: Cuckoo, Nighthawk, Flicker, Downy Woodpecker, Kingbird, Crested Flycatcher, Phoebe, Barn Swallow, Purple Martin, Chickadee, White-breasted and Red-breasted Nuthatches, Brown Creeper, Brown Thrasher, Robin, Bluebird, Cedar Waxwing, Red-eyed Vireo, Black and White Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Yellow-throat, Redstart, Bobolink, Meadowlark, Baltimore Oriole, Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Goldfinch, Vesper Sparrow, and Song Sparrow. The use of these picture cards will explain the absence of such common southern birds as the Mockingbird, Cardinal, Orchard Oriole, and others. Some of our most common winter residents, the White-throated Sparrow and Slate-colored Junco, are also not included. In Memphis this booklet has been supplied each teacher needing same; so, very brief notes on the local status of the species described were prepared for mimeographing and distribution by the Board of Education. This could be done similarly for other localities where this booklet may be extensively used.——Three plates showing nesting boxes and feeding shelves should be of great practical value. It is our belief that a reference list of the more essential 'government bird pamphlets' and similar material would have been helpful if included——Single copies can be obtained from the above for 20 cents. Orders of from 10 to 25 will cost 18 cents each, and over 25, 15 cents each.—B. C.

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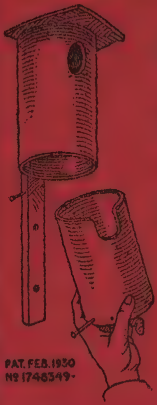

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THE BLUE GRASS CHAPTER held a most successful Fall Field Day on Oct. 29, near Columbia, with an attendance of thirty. The location selected was the country estate of Dr. O. J. Porter, on Duck River, a hilly diversified area of woodlands, thickets, and bluegrass meadows. It had been decided that a series of late October census lists here would be an interesting and well worthwhile project. During the morning the group deployed in parties over the several hundred acres and returned at one o'clock for lunch. Our hospitable host, Dr. Porter, had arranged his well-equipped lunching ground and the lunch committee, headed by Mrs. Sam H. Rogers of Pulaski, had spread out a feast that for variety and goodness, coupled with the crisp autumn air, left each guest yearning for a greater 'storage capacity'. Following an informal meeting after luncheon, the group again went afield and were able to add more birds to the morning's list. Common species were Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Robin, Carolina Wren, Myrtle Warbler, Cardinal, Slate-colored Junco, Field, White-throated, and Song Sparrows. Of Chimney Swifts there were 3 (a late record), Kingfisher, 1; Flicker, 9; Pileated Woodpecker, 5; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 4; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 2; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Downpecker, 5; Phoebe, 1; Blue Jay, 9; Tufted Titmouse, 9; Bewick's Wren, 1; Mockingbird, 4; Hermit Thrush, 8; Bluebird, 7; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 1; Cedar Waxwing, 16; Migrant Shrike, 1; Starling, 3; English Sparrow, 6; Meadowlark, 2; Bronzed Grackle, 1; Red-eyed Towhee, 7; Fox Sparrow, 1; Swamp Sparrow, 2;—in all, 42 species.—A. F. GANIER, Nashville.

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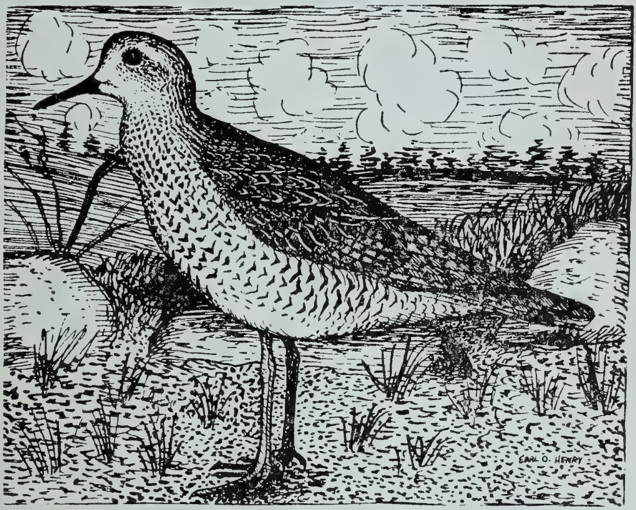

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# NOTES ON TENNESSEE BIRDS OF PREY

BY ALBERT F. GANIER

**Among our native birds the Raptores are of more than usual interest, both because of their size and rapacious nature and because of their steady decrease which threatens the eventual extinction of many of the species. Of the birds of prey, there are twenty-six species which occur in Tennessee and the notes given below apply to eight of these, all but the first and third species being more or less rare.**

**BLACK VULTURE, *Coragyps atratus atratus.*—Bird students at Nashville have had the opportunity during the past winter to observe an unusually large roost of these birds just three miles southwest of the city limits. This roost is in Warner Park, being on the north side of the first of the wooded hills that one comes to in going out Highway No. 100. There are a number of large trees, including a dead one, on this hill, and the steep slope below is a jungle of cane and brush wherein one or more of these birds have nested in years past. A count made at dusk on New Year's Day, 1940, showed approximately two hundred and fifty of the birds in the trees. During the exceedingly cold spell of January 18 to 28, when the thermometer dropped to around zero nightly and actually went to 13 degrees below on the night of January 26 (Airport data), there was no evidence that any of the Vultures had migrated southward. In spite of the cold north wind to which they were exposed, the majority of them chose to perch on the upper branches of the trees rather than midway. Lacking the protection of feathers on their heads, one would think their very brains would freeze, but apparently none were killed by the cold for no dead birds were to be found on the ground. I happened to pass by on the morning of February 23 at 8 a.m. and noticed that about one hundred and fifty were still in the trees at that late hour. This was a chilly, cloudy morning when the thermometer was at 37 degrees. The 'buzzards' have chosen the park for their roost because of its greater protection from nocturnal Nimrods. As might be expected in Dixie, their 'pale-faced cousins', the Turkey Vultures, had apparently drawn a social line between themselves and the 'Blacks' for none of the former came to share the roost.**

EASTERN GOSHAWK, *Astur atricapillus atricapillus.*—An immature bird of this species was shot at Glencliff, 5 miles southeast of Nashville, on Dec. 13, 1939. The bird was in the brown first-year plumage and measured 44 inches in wing-spread. It had been in the vicinity for some weeks and had made such depredations upon poultry, including grown hens, that it had been shot

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at by farmers on a number of occasions. The bird was brought by a hunter to the office of the *Nashville Banner* where a photo was made of the specimen, held with wings spread. Examination of the photograph and a check on the wing-spread left no doubt as to its identity. Wishing to secure the specimen, I went at once to the home of the hunter and was told that he had given it to a negro woman who lived close by. "Lor' Mister," said the old darky, "ah done et dat hock, en he sho et good, too." From the pile of feathers in the yard, I found ample evidence to further confirm the identity of this rare winter visitor from the Far North. The only other Tennessee record is that of an adult bird shot 16 miles northwest of Nashville on Oct. 19, 1918, and reported by me in this journal for Dec., 1937.

NORTHERN RED-SHOULDERED HAWK, *Buteo lineatus lineatus*.—Because of their unsuspicious nature, these hawks are frequently killed by hunters under the mistaken supposition that they are doing a good deed for quail and for the raisers of poultry. An adult male of this useful species was shot just south of Nashville on December 10, 1939, by a hunter and came into my hands for preservation. Upon dissection its crop was found to contain a Carolina shrew, swallowed in two halves, and its stomach was well filled with the remains of two short-tailed field mice and a green snake ten inches long. Another bird of this species, an immature, was killed by a farmer and brought to town January 16 of this year.

GOLDEN EAGLE, *Aquila chrysaetos canadensis*.— On December 26, 1939, one of these birds was captured a few miles from Lebanon and brought to Nashville several days later for disposal. A farmer and his boy, while hunting, had seen the big bird fly into a brushy field nearby, apparently intent upon capturing a rabbit. On running quickly to the spot they were able to 'corner' the bird before it could get to a clear space from which to take wing. Confined in a good-sized cage, it readily ate meat offered it. The writer enlisted the aid of the State Department of Conservation and their Mr. Solyom confiscated the bird so that it might be properly released at some later date. The Eagle was turned over by him to the writer who kept it for a week in a large enclosure, feeding it rabbits, Starlings, and veal. Mrs. Laskey placed band A731987 upon its leg and on January 7, Mr. John Caldwell, who was going to the Cumberland Mountains for the day, volunteered to release it there. He did so above the canyon of Caney Fork at a point east of Sparta. While in captivity the bird never learned the futility of dashing itself against the fish seine netting with which the enclosure was surrounded and eventually bent and frayed its tail feathers badly. It was extremely strong and its savage, thick talons and powerful beak had to be avoided carefully. I learned, however, to pick the bird up and carry it when necessary, by the procedure of grasping its wings from behind at the shoulder and drawing it back close against my belt. Although the Eagle would still lunge with its claws and beak, it was unable to reach me. I measured the bird's wing-spread and found it to be eighty-three inches. A large ashy white area under each wing at the elbow proclaimed it to be a young bird of the year. I know of several previous instances where Eagles have been caught in brushy places before they could take wing.

SOUTHERN BALD EAGLE. *Haliaeetus l. leucocephalus.*—A mature bird of this species was trapped near Greeneville, in Greene Co., by a farmer who in writing on October 28, 1939, said the Eagle had been taken about six week previous, i.e. about September 15. It was found that the bird had previously been shot and had an injured wing. The farmer kept it in his barn, feeding it on poultry, and many people came to see it. Miss Willie Ruth Reed, of Greeneville, interested herself in its behalf and wrote to the Department of Conservation to secure its release. The Department had the bird crated and shipped to Nashville with the idea of releasing it at Reelfoot Lake but it died before this could be accomplished, presumably from the damaged wing. The specimen was not preserved.

DUCK HAWK, *Falco peregrinus anatum.*—In the 'Season' section of this issue, W. M. Walker records the taking of one of these falcons near Knoxville on or about October 10, 1939. In this connection I wish to give some additional data on these birds from the same area. On May 1, 1932, Brockway Crouch and I made a trip down French Broad River in a canoe. The night before we camped under the Paint Rock cliffs, eight miles east of Knoxville. Here Mr. Crouch pointed out to me the nesting ledge that had been occupied by Duck Hawks two years previously. He had first found them here in 1920 and they had nested about the place nearly every year since. These high, rugged, and tree-clad limestone cliffs rose more than one hundred feet above the river and formed an ideal home for these peregrines, at least until the gunners became too numerous. We spent an hour or so along the crest, hoping to again record the birds here but saw none nor was there evidence of recent occupation about suitable nesting ledges.

Forty-six years ago, Duck Hawks nested within the present corporate limits of Knoxville in a cliff washed by the waters of the Tennessee River. On April 4, 1894, the cliff was scaled with ropes by William Wake and the ledges found to hold three highly incubated eggs. Wake described the nest in an old bird journal, *The Museum*, 1895, I, No. 3. This cliff is downstream from the city and about four miles from the business district.

On April 7, 1929, Mr. Crouch and the writer visited an eyrie which I had discovered in the Smokies two years before. This was in the cliff opposite Alum Cave and the three well-incubated eggs and circumstances were described in the *Wilson Bulletin*, 1931, XLII, pp. 3-4. This was some years before the park was begun. We both visited the eyrie in subsequent years for it has been used continuously. On May 17, 1931, Mr. Crouch found in addition to three young birds about ready to fly, the remains of some quarries that were of unusual interest. These consisted of a back and attached feet of a Red-breasted Merganser and two left feet of American Bitterns, all of which were identified by the U. S. Biological Survey. These had evidently been captured in flight as they passed above the forested peaks and proved that the continuous mountain ridge of between five and six thousand feet was not a deterrent to the route of these migratory birds. On his 1932 visit, made April 10, Crouch found three newly hatched young and one pipped egg. The presence of these rare falcons constitutes a feature of great interest in the Smokies and Park Naturalist Stupka justifiably extends them the most zealous protection.

PIGEON HAWK, *Falco columbarius*. Subsp.—This little falcon of the North seems to be a rather rare transient and, perhaps, winter resident. A recent record is that of one of them taken on September 18, 1939 at Murfreesboro. Thinking it was a small Cooper's Hawk, Prof. George Davis shot the bird in his own back yard. The skin was preserved by H. O. Todd, who furnished me this data. This species resembles the Sparrow Hawk in flight and size and in wooded localities, birds which seem to be the latter should be carefully scrutinized.

BARN OWL, *Tyto alba pratincola.*—In the last issue of *The Migrant* both William Simpson and the writer mentioned the nesting and occurrence of several of these birds in the Nashville area. The nest described by Simpson was again visited by him and by John Calhoun a few days after Christmas and the young birds were still present in the hollow of the tree. With them were some dead Starlings that had been brought in by the parents for food. On February 25, Simpson visited a nesting tree near Goodlettsville that had been reported to him and upon climbing to the hollow he found it to contain two dead birds. They were fully feathered but he thinks they were young ones because one was smaller than the other. An unpublished nest record for this species is that by Brockway Crouch of Knoxville, who flushed a parent from three eggs in a pot-hole near the top of Paint Rock cliffs on the French Broad River. This was eight miles east of Knoxville and in early June, 1931.

LONG-EARED OWL, *Asio wilsonianus.*—Except for the Snowy and the Saw-whet, this has proved to be the rarest owl in Tennessee. One of our very few records is that of one collected on January 12, 1923, by Grover Cook, eight or ten miles southwest of Nashville. It was flushed from a clump of cedar trees in the heavily wooded Bellemeade hills. Mr. Cook mounted the bird and it is now in the State Museum.

An additional record for Middle Tennessee has just been reported to me by Henry O. Todd of Murfreesboro. This is of two of these birds found near there in a cedar wood on December 10, 1939 by an acquaintance of his. The party who found them, thinking they were Great Horned Owls, shot one of the pair and brought it to Mr. Todd. The two returned to the location on the 18th and found the other bird dead on the ground, three-fourths of a mile away. Both specimens were preserved. This region, having many areas thickly timbered with red cedar, may prove to be a favored winter home for this species.

SAW-WHET OWL, *Criptoglaux acadica acadica.*—One of these little owls was captured in East Nashville on March 16, 1940. It was temporarily held for observation by Mrs. Amelia Laskey who will give further notes at a later date. For the two previous Tennessee records, see *The Migrant*, 1936, p. 19.

NASHVILLE, March, 1940.

# MID-WINTER FIELD VENTURES

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When early this year winter hurled its icy fury against sunny Tennessee we began to expect rare visitors from the North among our birds. About the middle of January Mr. Ganier wrote that Lapland Longspurs had been found near Memphis by Mr. Coffey and urged that flocks of Horned Larks in Middle Tennessee be watched for associating Longspurs. The Cumberland River bottomlands south of Clarksville were visited on the afternoon of January 18, when a flock of about two hundred Prairie Horned Larks was found at the stables of the local cavalry troop. The trip nearly ended there because a shell that had no powder in it fouled the barrel of the collecting gun and the trouble of ramming it out brought to mind that it was severely cold. But warm wrappings proved their worth and later we encountered a smaller flock. Specimens taken proved this to be made up of the Northern Horned Lark, a sup-species now recorded for the first time in our county. The temperature sank to five degrees above zero and a howling west wind drove needles of fine snow. A flock of about one hundred and fifty Crows was gathered in a field of corn that had been disked and flights of Mallards, cupping their wings, swung to the same feeding grounds.

That night the mercury dropped to eight below and the next morning the steaming Cumberland bore a thin skin of ice, but this was soon licked away by the waves. On Sunday the twenty-first, my friend, Dr. Pickering, went to see the ice that now began to form along the banks and noted from a vantage point a strange duck in the open water. Good light and strong binoculars distinguished for him the markings of Barrow's Golden-eye, a very northern species reported as wintering only as far south as the Great Lakes and New Jersey. The bird was studied for half an hour at easy distance. Most prominent markings were the large, halfmoon-shaped white patch that nearly covered the head in front of the eye and a line of white spots and dots set in the edge of the dark wings laid against the shining white body. The purple lustre of the head was noted as another mark to make its identification certain. And what a diver! As if he enjoyed his solitude, he kept ducking and popping up again at short intervals and his surface maneuvers were also carried out with peculiar energy.

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The temperature reached three degrees below zero that night and the next morning the Cumberland was frozen over—not to open again for ten days. That afternoon, January 25, when Dr. Pickering took me on a drive along the river we found five Canvas-backs feeding busily in a small hole in the river ice across from town. We crossed on the Cunningham bridge, but as we drove farther the openings became fewer and we saw no more ducks. Reasoning that there must be open water at the dams we set out for Lock B, thirteen miles above Clarksville. As we turned into the bottomlands a handsome Red-tailed Hawk started from a lone sycamore tree and soon his mate joined him. With everything blanketed by snow they had probably little trouble spotting their prey. In high expectations we walked around the lock buildings for a view of the river. Here was more ice than we had at town and an unusual amount of water was going over the dam. When workmen—their job done—came from the other shore, we learned that the wickets on top of the dam had just been lowered lest they become fouled by ice-flows. This activity had driven away the ducks, and only about eighteen Black Ducks remained at the end of the open water a quarter of a mile below. Snow was on the ice and the west wind whistled upstream. The top of the lock wall in the river had blown clear of snow and sunning on it were six American Pipits, a species neither of us had seen before and one we certainly did not expect here. With shrill, chirping calls they flew off across the river only to come back to this favored spot for more sunning and preening.

On our return we crossed town and went to Dunbar's Cave. At the east shore of the frozen lake a small patch of new ice lay in cold green color against the rosy sheen thrown over the snow-covered surface by the setting sun. Next to the bluff into which the cave recedes there was black, open water with seven Canvas-backs swimming on it. The temperature went to ten degrees below zero that night.

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The next day turned bright and as a result banding at my sub-station reached a peak with seventeen new birds and fourteen 'repeats' caught in a few one-cell traps. Dr. Pickering in the neighboring yard had kept his electrically-heated bird bath going (the birds bathed even in zero weather) and my place provided the sheltering hedge. In numbers, the White-crowned Sparrows led, then came the Starlings for whom scraps of suet mixed in the bait proved too much to resist. That night Dr. Pickering phoned to tell me that when he looked over the Horned Larks at the calvary stable that afternoon he was attracted by a group of small sparrow-like birds that were sitting forlornly on and behind frozen clods. He approached to within twenty-five feet and counted fifteen of the long sought Lapland Longspurs!

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On February 1 flocks of Horned Larks near the State line due north of Clarksville were examined for Longspurs but none were found. It had been reported to us that over a thousand ducks had been feeding in this section where hogs were being fattened on shock corn in the fields. Another large gathering of Ducks, approaching five thousand, was said to have been near Palmyra on a water-hole in the river's ice, but reports could not be verified. The marsh below Dunbar's Cave was still frozen enough under the protection of weeds and grasses to be walked over, nevertheless a Wilson's Snipe was flushed from a clump of cat-tails.

Land and river were again free from ice and snow on February 3. Five days later, although the ground was still muddy, the river bottoms were visited again. To have two strange birds of Goldfinch-like calls and flight, circle high and drop to the ground far off, then disappear when the spot was reached, not once but twice, is rather trying, but this experience led to eventual sucess. On February 11, a sunny and balmy Sunday, we found in that field a dense flock of 250 Lapland Longspurs. They were not at all shy and while at first our eyes had only caught the few that flew in short dashes over the ground, we soon discovered them right at our feet scattered thickly through the husks and broken stalks of disked corn. Stooped forward they ran like mice and then hid behind trash or clumps of soil. The so-called rattling call was more musical than we had imagined it to be and the clear Goldfinch-like note preceded it most often when the birds were on the wing. After studying their quaint manners we flushed them. They rose in a mass much in the fashion of a flock of English Sparrows but soon settled down again. This was the only time that we saw so large a flock and from then on we found their steadily decreasing number always in company with Northern Horned Larks. As a rule they took part in the maneuvers of that species in returning to their chosen field after a wide circling sweep which ended with a long flight barely above the ground, as a plane that comes to an airport and taxies the length of the field before stopping. When the flushing was repeated over and over, the Longspurs would, however, lag behind or leave the flock just as if they lacked some of the wild spirit of the Horned Larks.

The weather during February was moderate in temperature but often murky and wet. On the eighteenth, a week after the big find, ten or twelve Lapland Longspurs were found with twice that number of Northern Horned Larks in a similar field approximately ten miles north of the first site. This number also dwindled away rapidly and the behaviour of the Larks showed that mating was near. On February 22 only one or two Longspurs were left at either place. On the twenty-ninth Dr. Pickering found one Longspur with six Horned Larks half a mile from town near Red River.

All during February these birds had attracted us to them but when March came they were gone. When we returned the scene had changed and new actors had come on the stage. The fields had become green and the raucous chorus of Red-wings, Grackles, and Cowbirds pierced the air of early spring. With their arrival passed a season of unusual ornithological interest. CLARKSVILLE, March, 1940.

## THE UPLAND PLOVER

(PICTURED ON OUR COVER)

This species (*Bartramia longicauda*) is true to the first part of its common name only, being a bird of the grassy plains and, in migration, being found on pastures, airports, and other grassy areas. It is not a true plover like the Killdeer and its often-used name of 'Bartramian Sandpiper' is more appropriate. Formerly abundant, it was a popular game bird and steadily decreased in numbers. Saved by the abolition of spring shooting it made a slow comeback and now is becoming more and more common. In Tennessee in recent years it has been recorded as a fairly common transient at Memphis, uncommon in Middle Tennessee altho rare at Nashville, and rare in East Tennessee. At Memphis it is

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This was at the site most frequently checked and it now became of interest to see how long these rare northern visitors would remain with us. A careful hunt made the next day, January 29, failed to reveal them again. This was attributed to the weather; it had become overcast and for the first time since the start of the cold spell the temperature went above the freezing point. Another trip was made January 31 when much of the snow had already gone away. At town all openings in the river ice had become closed but below old Seven Mile Ferry above town a large body of water had become open. Here two Golden-eyes were found and a Great Blue Heron was seen flying over. The stir of small birds along the banks continued unabated and in a dense patch of weeds Tree Sparrows were still feeding under the snow blanket it supported.

On February 1 flocks of Horned Larks near the State line due north of Clarksville were examined for Longspurs but none were found. It had been reported to us that over a thousand ducks had been feeding in this section where hogs were being fattened on shock corn in the fields. Another large gathering of Ducks, approaching five thousand, was said to have been near Palmyra on a water-hole in the river's ice, but reports could not be verified. The marsh below Dunbar's Cave was still frozen enough under the protection of weeds and grasses to be walked over, nevertheless a Wilson's Snipe was flushed from a clump of cat-tails.

Land and river were again free from ice and snow on February 3. Five days later, although the ground was still muddy, the river bottoms were visited again. To have two strange birds of Goldfinch-like calls and flight, circle high and drop to the ground far off, then disappear when the spot was reached, not once but twice, is rather trying, but this experience led to eventual sucess. On February 11, a sunny and balmy Sunday, we found in that field a dense flock of 250 Lapland Longspurs. They were not at all shy and while at first our eyes had only caught the few that flew in short dashes over the ground, we soon discovered them right at our feet scattered thickly through the husks and broken stalks of disked corn. Stooped forward they ran like mice and then hid behind trash or clumps of soil. The so-called rattling call was more musical than we had imagined it to be and the clear Goldfinch-like note preceded it most often when the birds were on the wing. After studying their quaint manners we flushed them. They rose in a mass much in the fashion of a flock of English Sparrows but soon settled down again. This was the only time that we saw so large a flock and from then on we found their steadily decreasing number always in company with Northern Horned Larks. As a rule they took part in the maneuvers of that species in returning to their chosen field after a wide circling sweep which ended with a long flight barely above the ground, as a plane that comes to an airport and taxies the length of the field before stopping. When the flushing was repeated over and over, the Longspurs would, however, lag behind or leave the flock just as if they lacked some of the wild spirit of the Horned Larks.

The weather during February was moderate in temperature but often murky and wet. On the eighteenth, a week after the big find, ten or twelve Lapland Longspurs were found with twice that number of Northern Horned Larks in a similar field approximately ten miles north of the first site. This number also dwindled away rapidly and the behaviour of the Larks showed that mating was near. On February 22 only one or two Longspurs were left at either place. On the twenty-ninth Dr. Pickering found one Longspur with six Horned Larks half a mile from town near Red River.

All during February these birds had attracted us to them but when March came they were gone. When we returned the scene had changed and new actors had come on the stage. The fields had become green and the raucous chorus of Red-wings, Grackles, and Cowbirds pierced the air of early spring. With their arrival passed a season of unusual ornithological interest. CLARKSVILLE, March, 1940.

# THE UPLAND PLOVER

(PICTURED ON OUR COVER)

This species (*Bartramia longicauda*) is true to the first part of its common name only, being a bird of the grassy plains and, in migration, being found on pastures, airports, and other grassy areas. It is not a true plover like the Killdeer and its often-used name of 'Bartramian Sandpiper' is more appropriate. Formerly abundant, it was a popular game bird and steadily decreased in numbers. Saved by the abolition of spring shooting it made a slow comeback and now is becoming more and more common. In Tennessee in recent years it has been recorded as a fairly common transient at Memphis, uncommon in Middle Tennessee altho rare at Nashville, and rare in East Tennessee. At Memphis it is

# LAPLAND LONGSPURS AT MEMPHIS

BY BEN COFFEY

Lapland Longspurs (*Calcarius lapponicus lapponicus*) were first definitely recorded at Memphis this past season but we have every reason now to believe they have been present for two or three winters previously. This despite the fact we have been expecting them since 1933 when first reported by George H. Lowery, Jr., in northeastern Louisiana during December, 1932. Moreover, M. G. Vaiden had found five at Rosedale, Miss., on December 2, 1938.

On Christmas Day, 1939, our census party of Burdick, Coffey, and Mason, stopped to examine a small flock of Killdeers about six miles northwest of Tupelo, Miss. Also present in the bare field along the highway was a small flock of Prairie Horned Larks. Looking them over for Pipits we made out one bird distinctly different from either species, yet resembling both in actions. Smaller and more slender than the larks it also lacked their conspicuous markings but showed more contrast in markings and color than is present on Pipits. The sparrow-type bill distinguished it from both species. After stalking it several times we all agreed we had found our first Lapland Longspur.

The Moon Lake, Miss. census party on December 31 were all cautioned to watch for the Longspurs in the fields and along the levee where we customarily found American Pipits and very rarely Prairie Horned Larks. A large flock of small, ground feeders was found and the entire party brought back later to look them over. There were so many Longspurs that we had to look them over and over to find any Pipits. Most of the Pipits recorded that day were individuals flying over or small groups on the levee. We estimated the Longspurs at 400. By this time most of us had learned to recognize the rattling notes of this species and had coined the word 'Lapits' to cover any or all of the three species: Longspurs, Pipits, and Horned Larks.

The following Sunday, January 6, we decided to visit our previous Pipit feeding grounds north of Memphis in the hope of recording the Lapland Longspur in Tennessee. Our first stop was the old Armstrong airport (now an old corn and cotton field) at Woodstock. Two weeks previously, on December 24, I had visited this field looking for Pipits on the Memphis Xmas Census. I was alone, having left the others working across the Loosahatchie bottoms. A flock of about two hundred birds rose nervously and circled away. Some of the calls were a two-syllable 'pip-it' and a single syllable note of the Pipit but most of the notes were of a rattling nature which I had previously assumed to be another type of Pipit call-note. The flock moved on so I listed them as two hundred Pipits. Other Pipits were seen at close range that day by our three main parties but I muffed a chance to report this new species on our census report to *Bird-Lore*. For on January 6 we flushed a flock of this size at the same spot,—the rattling notes were now known to be made by Longspurs—and when the birds settled back down accommodatingly close we could find nothing but Longspurs! West of the highway was another flock of fifty.

Correction has been made in our Memphis Census list as published in this issue. For at least the two seasons previously I have distinguished this rattling note from others without thinking of it being given by other than Pipits. We have not looked our flocks over so carefully in recent years. During the first few years that Pipits were common here (1933-1936) we followed them up each time they circled away so that everyone on each trip could see them at close range. There were no Longspurs then. However, Horned Larks still continued unusual enough for each new set of bird enthusiasts that we continued to watch this type of habitat. Less frequently, perhaps, in later years as Overton Park and Mud Lake offer in season the most for one's limited time.

Continuing on January 6 we found a small flock of Longspurs and Prairie Horned Larks about a quarter-mile north. The latter we examined for Northern Horned Larks without success. We worked another field north of the Big Ditch drainage canal but with no results except a scattered file of nine Pipits.

On January 13 we were privileged to have Albert F. Ganier with us. At Armstrong field we spread out for a canvass but not a Longspur rose! One Tree Sparrow on an old cotton stalk and not much else. Two more hours of daylight and a sinking feeling that we might not 'produce the goods' for our guest authority. At the second locality a few minutes later we found our birds from the auto. By repeated stalking we made an estimate of 12 Lapland Longspurs, 15 Prairie Horned Larks, and 10 Northern Horned Larks. This was the spot where we had only the Prairie subspecies the week previously. All birds present were individually observed on both occasions. A few of the Longspurs had brighter chestnut markings on the back of the neck than did the majority. Two collected were in the dull plumage.

Hurrying to the Big Ditch field we arrived there shortly before dark. Primarily we wanted to 'kick-up' a LeConte's Sparrow but a cloud of small birds to the west of the LeConte's habitat attracted our attention. We soon found a large flock of about four hundred Longspurs, apparently hunting roosting places in the mats of short grass. All seemed to be in the bright plumage. Three were collected and the differences in plumage and size of these specimens and the first two seemd almost what one would expect between two separate species. The males measured about 6.6 inches in length, the females about 5.9 inches.

About two weeks later Burdick reported a flock of seven hundred just east of Memphis. We did not again visit the above localities north of town until March 31. At that time we failed to find any of our northern visitors while eleven Pectoral Sandpipers and eleven Upland Plover north of Big Ditch indicated the spring migration was well under way.

MEMPHIS, March 31, 1940.

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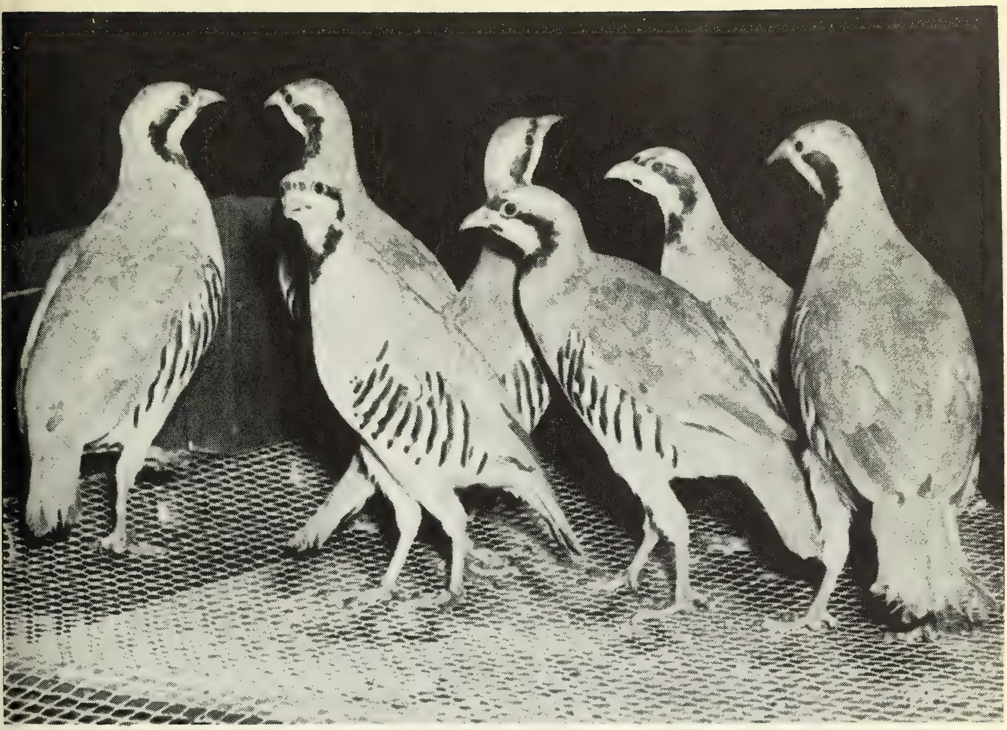
OUR ILLUSTRATIONS:—On the opposite page at the top is shown a group of Chukar Partridges, Tennessee's newly introduced game species, described in this issue by Mr. Val Solyom. At the bottom is a most seasonable photo by Dr. Chas. F. Pickering who snapped this 'full house' at his Martin box. The Purple Martin is one of our first summer residents to return each spring. Following are two excellent photographs made by Mr. M. H. Oldham in Poinsett County, Arkansas, and illustrating Mrs. Oldham's article on other pages. The first is of young Red-shouldered Hawks being fed on the nest, May 5, 1939. The adult bird apparently is offering a small lizard to the young. The second is of a young Great Horned Owl, March 10, 1939. (Continued on page 19.)

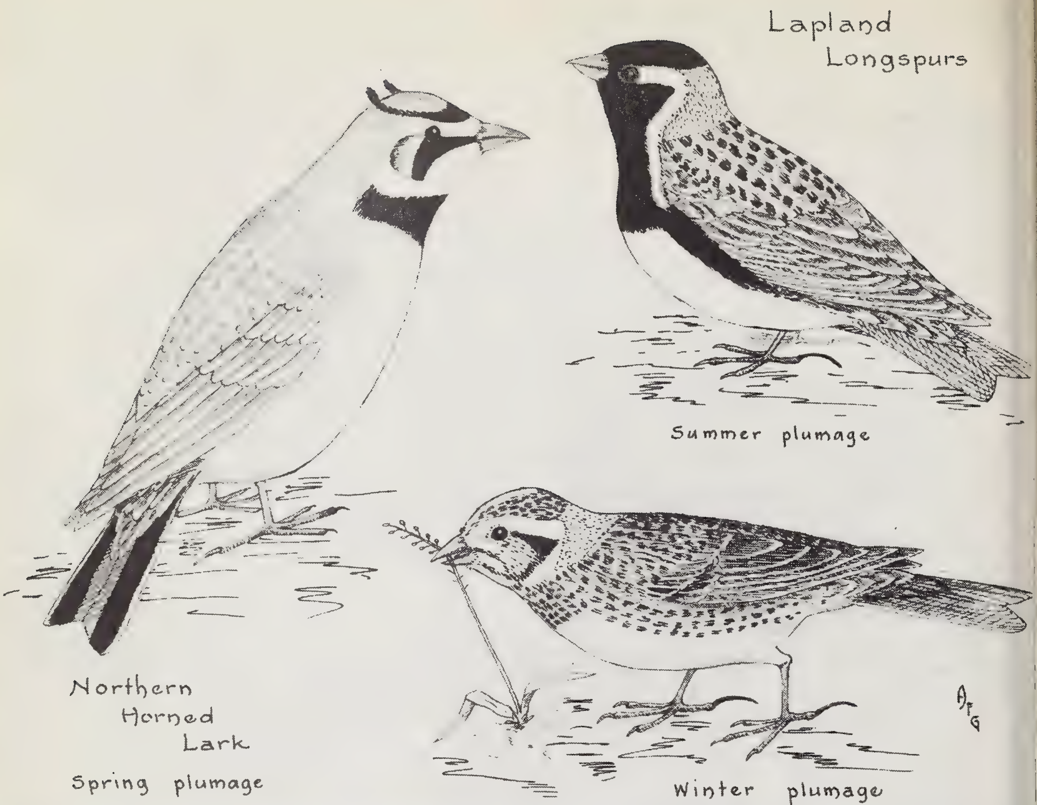


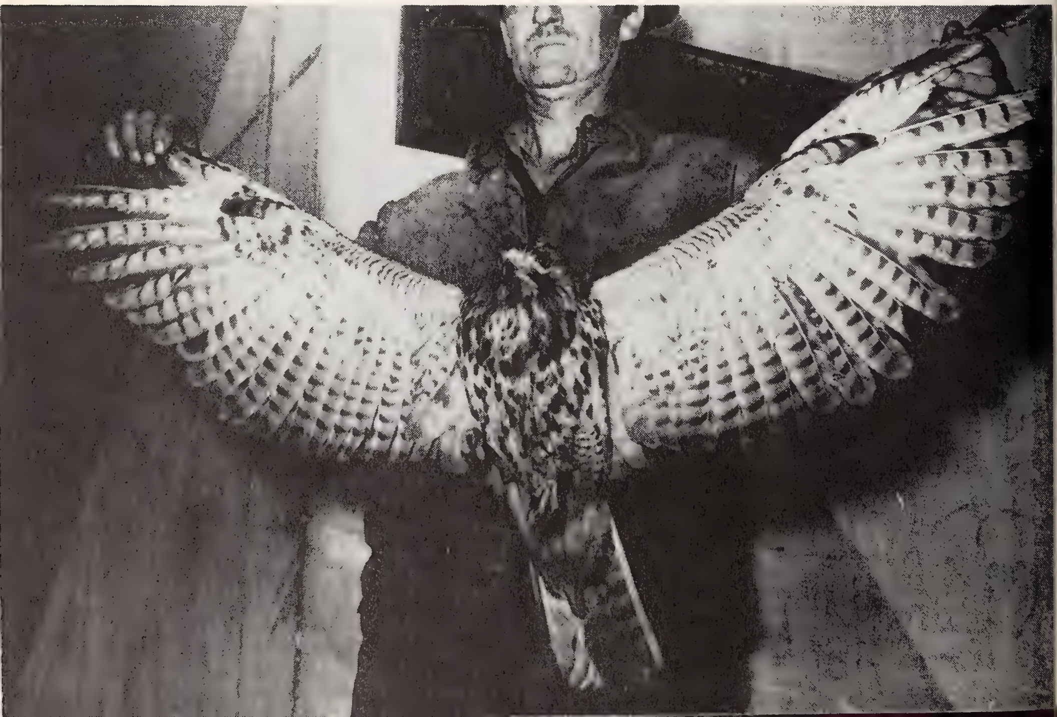
Chukar Partridges

Purple Martins

Young Great Horned Owl

Red-shouldered Hawks


Lapland
Longspurs
Summer plumage
Northern
Horned
Lark
Spring plumage
Winter plumage
AFG



# PHOTOGRAPHING THE GREAT HORNED OWL AND RED-SHOULDERED HAWK

BY MRS. M. H. OLDHAM

On January 8, 1939, while walking in a woods in Poinsett County in eastern Arkansas, we found the nest of a Great Horned Owl. It was an open nest located about forty feet up in a red oak and showed signs of having been used previously. The adult owl was brooding two white eggs. Due to high water, we were unable to return to the nest site until February 12, when we found one young owl about the size of two fists. The other egg did not hatch. Each week thereafter we returned to take pictures of the young owl at various ages. Not once did the adult owl return to the nest while the camera was up, although she would often wait until the climber was almost to the nest before taking flight. This was always the case on the coldest days.

On March 18 we visited the young owl for the last time. As Mr. Oldham climbed the tree to place the camera, the young one spread his wings and sailed to the ground about 200 feet from the nest. Although he was large, he was not yet able to fly. He objected vigorously to having his picture taken and would fluff out his feathers and make a hissing sound. His claws were strong and sunk so tenaciously into the sleeve of my leather jacket that it was difficult to pry him loose. We then placed him high on a limb near the nest tree and told him "goodbye."

Beneath the nest we found rabbit fur and also a small sandpiper which had apparently been dropped before it could be eaten. The latter was the only evidence of the killing of birds we saw at this nest. We have also found nests of the Great Horned Owl in both Tennessee and Michigan and all have been open nests high off the ground.

On March 17, 1939, we found a Red-shouldered Hawk's nest containing one white egg speckled with brown. The nest was constructed about 30 feet up in a willow oak and in the same woods in which we had found the owl's nest. On April 2 several miles from this nest we found a second Red-shouldered nest located about 25 feet up on the side of a red oak. We flushed an adult as we walked under the nest. As we were able to identify the hawk, we did not attempt to see into the nest at this time.

On a second trip to the first nest we built a blind and on April 22 returned to use it. There were three young hawks about five days old in the nest. They were covered with down about the color of a Rhode Island chick. We set up the camera, crawled into the blind and waited. The adult hawks screamed as they wheeled and circled overhead but they would not come near the nest.

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OUR ILLUSTRATIONS (continued):—Pictured on the opposite page are some of Tennessee's rare winter visitants. At the top are Lapland Longspurs, recorded for the first time in the state this past season, shown with a Northern Horned Lark. These two species frequent similar habitats and are often found together. The summer plumage of the Longspurs is acquired after they leave this country en route to the Arctic region. Drawing by Mr. Albert F. Ganier. The photograph, courtesy of the Nashville Banner, is of an injured immature Goshawk taken near Nashville this season as described in Mr. Ganier's article.

Pp. 21-24
missing

We then decided to visit the second nest the same day. Stakes were nailed to the side of a nearby tree to a height slightly above the nest. We found three young hawks in this nest also. These appeared to be about ten days old and were beginning to sprout pin feathers and show barred coats. At intervals of about a week we returned to the nest for pictures of the young hawks. The adults did not return to the nest often and we succeeded in getting only one picture of them on each visit and often only after a wait of several hours. However, the adults did not seem to mind the camera. The young would crouch down in the nest when they saw us but after the camera was up and we had taken our places behind some vines, they would stand up again and move about, calling every now and then to parents who doubtless were too far away to hear. We noticed that fresh leaves had been placed in the nest each time we saw it. On May 15 the young had left and were perched about in the tree. They were handsome birds with their barred backs and buff underparts.

Mr. Oldham never found evidence of food in the nest. Perhaps their appetites were so great they ate the food as fast as their parents could provide it. However, we did get a picture of an adult holding a lizard which it had brought. A few minutes later both the parent and lizard were gone.

We visited the first hawk nest only once more and found that one of the hawks had lost the sight of one eye. The mosquitoes were numerous and swarming about the nest, so we wondered if he had not injured his eye with his claw as he tried to fight them off.

The three nests described were located west of Harrisburg and about a half-mile south of the Weiner Road. The second hawk nest was three and a half miles west of the L'Anguille River while the other two nests were about one mile east of the river.

HARRISBURG, ARKANSAS, February, 1940.

# ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CENSUS

BY OUR MEMBERS

Our eleventh annual state-wide mid-winter or Christmas Census of bird life is tabulated below. For the Nashville chapter it was their twenty-fifth annual census. The number of lists submitted again necessitated two sets of tables. Fourteen localities in the state are represented. Lists from Corinth and Rosedale, Miss. were included as usual and for the first time the Moon Lake (Lula), Miss. census annually taken by Memphis members. This latter had been taken on December 26 in previous years, usually under bad weather conditions. The 26th was possibly worse this year but since *Bird-Lore* magazine moved up the dead-line for census lists submitted to it from the 27th to the 25th, this was one year the Moon Lake census could be and was postponed. Census lists appearing in *Bird-Lore* were from Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Greeneville, Humboldt, Memphis, and Nashville (1939, Supplement to Vol. XLII, No. 1, pp. 104-106). Also included were Hickory Flat and Tupelo, Miss., made by our members (pp. 107-108.) The Nashville list is found again in *The Kentucky Warbler* (1940, No. 1).

Dec. 26; also a flock of 1500 Bronzed Grackles. For additional notes see 'The Season.'—Mr. and Mrs. B. H. Abernathy, Paul Bryant, John B. Calhoun, Albert F. Ganier (compiler), Conrad Jamison, Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Laskey, Miss Mary Lee, Francis Lawrence, Arthur McMurray, C. E. Pearson, John Pritchett, Leo Rippy, Jr., J. A. Robins, Wm. Simpson, H. S. Vaughn, and G. B. Woodring. CLARKSVILLE:—Dec. 17, 6 to 5; partly cloudy A.M. clear P.M.; no wind; temp. 50 to 60. Three groups, 22 group-hours. By auto 12 miles, then 2½ hours on horseback on farm near Trenton, Ky.—Mrs. John Y. Hutchison. By auto 35 miles, generally NE of town,—Dunbar Cave, Meriwether farm, golf course, Hiett garden, Spring Creek.—Dr. and Mrs. C. F. Pickering. 15 miles on foot to Mark's Slough, along T. C. R. R., and Cumberland River.—Alfred Clebsch, Sr. CLARKSVILLE:—Dec. 28, 6 to 6; dark and overcast; no wind; temp. 32. Five groups, 32 group-hours. Dunbar Cave, Haynes Lake, near mouth of Red River to Odd Fellows Home, Mark's Slough circuit.—Lamar Armstrong, John B. Calhoun, Alfred, Jr. and Edward Clebsch, Alfred Clebsch, Sr. (compiler), Mrs. John Y. Hutchison, Wanda McBride, and Dr. Chas. F. Pickering. See 'The Season' for comments. WHITE BLUFF:—Jan. 7, 9 to 3:30; cloudy; light wind; temp. 34 to 37; lake frozen over except for 2 out of 53 acres. 10 miles on foot, 3 groups. Montgomery Bell State Park only as on previous trips; woods, waste lands, and new 53-acre artificial lake.—A. F. Ganier, G. R. Mayfield, H. C. Monk, H. S. Vaughn and G. B. Woodring. NORRIS:—Dec. 28, 9:30 to 4; cloudy; light N wind; temp. 34 to 40; ground bare except snow on mountains around Caryville Lake. 2 miles on foot, 17 by auto with frequent stops. Caryville to Norris, —Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Walker. GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK:—Dec. 17, 7 to 4:30; clear; wind moderate, variable; in lowlands, ground bare and dry, temp. 44 to 60; in mountains, snow-covered, 1 to 2 inches, in shaded areas, highest temp. 47. Area of 15 miles diameter centered on Bull Head and including Mt. LeConte, Mt. Kephart, Greenbriar Cove, Elkmont, and the state divide from Collins' Gap to Charlie's Bunion; also Emert's Cove and Gatlinburg and Pigeon Forge, just outside park. Altitude range, 1200 to 6000 feet. 21 observers in 7 groups. Total 43 group-hours, 43 miles on foot, 101 miles by auto. As in 1938 Red Crosbills and Pine Siskins were not to be found. The absence of Red-breasted Nuthatches proved to be quite unusual. Seed crop of spruce and fir was very light this year. The Eastern Turkey was observed a few days prior to the census.—Charles O. Baird, Jr., Mary Ruth Chiles, Edw. W. Dougherty, Lelia C. Hall, John J. Hay, H. P. Ijams, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. M. Johnson, Mrs. Frank Leonhard, Mary McGriff, Elise Morrell, S. A. Ogden, W. M. Walker, Jr., Dr. Dorothy E. Williams (Knoxville Chapter); Wm. F. Alston, Carlos C. Campbell, Betty Jean Hay, Elizabeth B. Johnson, Dr. Willis King, Joe F. Manley, and Arthur Stupka, Park Naturalist. CORINTH, MISS.:—Dec. 24, 12 to 5; very cloudy; slight wind; temp. 40. Liddon Lake (3 miles SE) to Tuscumbia bottoms (5 miles SW).—Benj. R. Warriner and Elgin Wright. MEMPHIS:—Dec. 24, 7 to 5; overcast; stiff wind; temp. 35 to 38; wet underfoot from previous day's rain, first in some time. Same territory as previous years but omitting Mud Island and N. 2nd St. just N of Wolf River, Mound City Chute, and Nonconnah Creek at Mt. Moriah road; better coverage. 20 observers; 15 working in twos and threes from three autos, each 1 to 6 miles on foot;

singly in town and park; 2 on river in cruiser late afternoon. Total, 92 party-hours.—Austin Burdick, Jr., Fred Carney, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Coffey, Jr., Bill and Jack Fowler, Dr. Louis Leroy and Louis, Jr., Joe Mason, Hugh McCain, Franklin McCamey, Jr., Fordyce Mitchel, C. E. Moore, John Pond, Mrs. M. L. Torti, Eugene Wallace, Billy Walker, Ben Welch, Wendell Whittemore, and Neal Wyatt. MOON LAKE (LULA), MISS.:—Dec. 31, 9 to 5:30; cloudy; brisk wind; temp. 35 to 45. Hwy. 61 just N of Dundee to Lula, by auto along east and south sides of Moon Lake, then N near levee, crossing same thru bottoms to Helena ferry, back to north end of lake; frequent stops. Two auto groups for the first time, together along lakeside, separate later and occasionally in pairs. Burrowing Owl, LeConte's Sparrows, and Lapland Longspurs observed at length by all.—Austin Burdick, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Ben B. Coffey, Jr., Bill and Jack Fowler, Joe Mason, Franklin McCamey, Jr., C. E. Moore, John Pond, Jim Vardaman and Ben Welch. ROSEDALE, MISS.:—Dec. 24, 7 to 3; a cold, clammy day, foggy and poor visibility; sleeting at 8:30, rain at 1:30, then clearing until 4 P.M.; temp. 42 to 38. Rosedale to Legion Lake, to Lake Bolivar, and return. 38 miles by auto and 1 on foot. The American Egret was on opposite side of Lake Bolivar and was watched for some time. It waded a considerable distance but never took flight. Possibly an injury accounts for its presence here. (Also reported subsequently—Editor). Rusty Blackbirds seen in a barnyard with kindred species. On our return journey a total of 25,000 to 35,000 Bronzed Grackles, Starlings, and Red-wings were seen going to roost. Most of the ducks were seen at Lake Bolivar.—Mr. and Mrs. M. G. Vaiden.

# THE SEASON

CLARKSVILLE AREA: To us the increase in numbers of Tree Sparrows is the outstanding change in bird population brought by the severeness of last winter. During the second half of January and all of February this was possibly our most abundant species, whereas at the end of December it was still rare. Other trends, such as the relative shortage of White-throated Sparrows, Field Sparrows, Towhees and Myrtle Warblers, the more general distribution of Fox Sparrows, and the total absence of Golden-crowned Kinglets had already been noted during the Christmas Census. During the cold spell itself, Purple Finches and Winter Wrens retired from this territory and neither Grackles nor Cowbirds were seen between Dec. 29 and Feb. 4. The Bewick's Wren became hard to find in December and we believe all of this species finally left here. Dr. Pickering noticed one again on Feb. 17, but 4 weeks later they are not yet back in usual numbers. Species that remained in spite of the cold include Great Blue Heron, Wilson's Snipe, Red-headed Woodpecker, Phoebe, these four rarely seen, and in good numbers, the Robin. A regular wave of the Eastern subspecies came in around Jan. 24, right in the midst of the coldest weather. Early in January flock after flock of ducks arrived coincidentally with the freeze along the Ohio. In other years individuals of transient species have lingered here, but this time none stayed except the true winter ducks: Mallard, Black, Ring-necked, Canvas-back, L. Scaup, Golden-eye and American Merganser. All of them except Canvas-back and Golden-eye occurred in good numbers. On Feb. 11 a change was noted; 11 Pintail were seen and Red-wings and Grackles had returned. Since that is the day on which we found the large flock of Longspurs, it may be worth mentioning that it followed closely on the atmospheric disturbance that resulted in the Georgia tornado. Blue-winged Teal arrived Feb. 17 and on the 24th a Woodcock was flushed. Savannah Sparrows began drifting back on Feb. 15 and Canada Geese flew north Feb. 25-March 3. Six Baldpates mingled with the winter ducks on Mar. 2. With the return of the Chipping Sparrow Mar. 4 and the Purple Martin on the 7th we listed the arrival of our first migrating summer residents. On the 7th also came another harbinger of spring, a Tree Swallow and on the 9th the alarmed cry of the Wood Duck rang once more from Red River. But Vesper Sparrows and Brown Thrasher keep us waiting this year. —ALFRED CLEBSCH, Clarksville.

NASHVILLE AREA—The winter here was colder than ordinarily, especially January. A large winter roost was located south of Woodlawn and West End Avenue, in hedges and thickets. During the latter part of February, when the number of birds roosting there reached a peak, the roost was estimated by our members to contain 50,000 to 500,000 birds,—about 100,000 were undoubtedly there. The bulk of them were Starlings, Robins, and Grackles; also Red-wings later.—A 5-inch, ten-day snow fell Jan. 16; it was accompanied by severe cold which froze over the Cumberland River sufficiently for people to walk across it for three days (first time since 1884). Mr. Ganier reports that practically all of several birds collected by him during that period were of normal weight and amount of fat. Nevertheless, quite a few Starlings, Cardinals, Towhees, and other ground feeding birds were found starved or frozen. Hackberries were still to be found on some trees.—Most of our observers agree that Carolina and Bewick's Wrens, and Myrtle Warblers were notably absent this winter.—H. C. Monk reports an immature Bald Eagle at Radnor Lake Feb. 16; Am. Merganser, Feb. 23 and 28; and Kingfisher, Feb. 28. He also reports: Brown Thrasher, Feb. 28; Phoebe and Fox Sparrows, March 1 at Centennial park.—Mrs. Laskey reports a Woodcock singing near her home, they nest here all too infrequently.—On a January morning, John Pritchett, Jr., discovered at his home a Ruffed Grouse, the first to be recorded in Davidson County in about 15 years. As he approached, it took flight. But, it was later found to be a domestic grouse that had escaped from a neighbor!—ARTHUR MCMURRAY, Nashville.

KNOXVILLE AREA:—We shall give a few general remarks concerning the winter season and later develop other specific points of interest. The duck population on Norris Lake was greater this year than last based on observations of Burch, Henry, and myself. Some species worthy of mention are: A few Golden-eyes and about 1,000 Buffle-heads were seen on Jan. 14. Large numbers of Black Ducks and Mallards, goodly numbers of Blue-winged Teals, Ring-necked Ducks, and Hooded Mergansers were present on the lake throughout the winter.—The Purple Finch has been notably scarce with only about four records for the past two months and then only a few were seen. The Cedar Waxwing, always erratic, was only recorded on Mar. 6 when Miss McGriff observed a large flock near her home.—There are some species that have been present during the winter which are not usually found around Knoxville. The vicinity of Fountain City with a small, swift flowing stream that remained unfrozen during the coldest of weather, proved to be a favored habitat for some of these birds. For the second time in the past four years a Brown Thrasher has wintered there. The White-crowned Sparrow, which is not at all common here, was reported in small numbers in early January, had increased to about 50 in late February and on Mar. 5 Freeland Goddard counted 30 on and around his feeding station. Also along this stream at least 6 Wilson Snipes could be flushed most any time and twice Goddard reported a Woodcock. Once he approached within 15 feet as the latter bird fed along the stream bank near a bridge abutment. The Woodcock was observed in flight song on Feb. 28 and again by Mrs. Walker and myself on March 2. Two birds were performing on the latter date when we watched and listened for twelve to fifteen minutes. However, we had waited approximately twenty-five minutes before the flight song began. On Feb. 4 Goddard, Baird, and the writer found 2 male Cowbirds, 2 American Pipits and 20 Rusty Blackbirds. The weather at the time had moderated some but snow still covered most of the ground.—The cold weather caused one incident that obtained some newspaper publicity. On Feb. 27 a Great Blue Heron in feeble flight was captured near Halls Crossroads by a truck driver who noticed the bird could stand only with difficulty. An investigation revealed a large ball of ice on each foot and this extra weight together with the decreasing supply of food had placed such a burden on the heron that it could hardly maintain equilibrium. The bird was thawed out, fed some goldfish and other food, and placed in a warm basement but it didn't survive.—The Fox Sparrow furnished us with fun and amusement when the ice and snow had covered everything. At Mr. Ijams' place the snow had been packed down to a cake of ice near a small shrub. This was the favorite feeding spot for two Fox Sparrows and here the grain and peanut hearts were thick enough to completely cover the snow. Yet the sparrows would hop into the air, alight scratching as if the leaves were thick on the ground, and finally after a pause would eat a few grains of seed and then repeat the performance. Was this habit or instinct?—Another highlight of the winter season was the appearance of a lone Tree Sparrow at Mrs. Picklesimer's feeding station on Jan. 23. It was in a flock of Juncos and White-throats but remained in the vicinity that day only.—Mr. Meyer reports that the cold weather increased his banding activities. It is of interest to note that of the 60 White-throats banded in 1939 he has had 20 per cent returns to Feb. 1, in the winter of 1939-40.—This year the Red-breasted Nuthatches have not been present in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park except in very few numbers, yet they have been found around Knoxville this winter to a much greater extent than usual.—The Purple Martin and the Red-wing were our first spring migrants and they both arrived Mar. 1. A Pine Warbler was heard singing on Mar. 10 so we may assume that spring is around the corner.—W. M. WALKER, Knoxville.

Dec. 26; also a flock of 1500 Bronzed Grackles. For additional notes see 'The Season.'—Mr. and Mrs. B. H. Abernathy, Paul Bryant, John B. Calhoun, Albert F. Ganier (compiler), Conrad Jamison, Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Laskey, Miss Mary Lee, Francis Lawrence, Arthur McMurray, C. E. Pearson, John Pritchett, Leo Rippy, Jr., J. A. Robins, Wm. Simpson, H. S. Vaughn, and G. B. Woodring. CLARKSVILLE:—Dec. 17, 6 to 5; partly cloudy A.M. clear P.M.; no wind; temp. 50 to 60. Three groups, 22 group-hours. By auto 12 miles, then 2½ hours on horseback on farm near Trenton, Ky.—Mrs. John Y. Hutchison. By auto 35 miles, generally NE of town,—Dunbar Cave, Meriwether farm, golf course, Hiett garden, Spring Creek.—Dr. and Mrs. C. F. Pickering. 15 miles on foot to Mark's Slough, along T. C. R. R., and Cumberland River.—Alfred Clebsch, Sr. CLARKSVILLE:—Dec. 28, 6 to 6; dark and overcast; no wind; temp. 32. Five groups, 32 group-hours. Dunbar Cave, Haynes Lake, near mouth of Red River to Odd Fellows Home, Mark's Slough circuit.—Lamar Armstrong, John B. Calhoun, Alfred, Jr. and Edward Clebsch, Alfred Clebsch, Sr. (compiler), Mrs. John Y. Hutchison, Wanda McBride, and Dr. Chas. F. Pickering. See 'The Season' for comments. WHITE BLUFF:—Jan. 7, 9 to 3:30; cloudy; light wind; temp. 34 to 37; lake frozen over except for 2 out of 53 acres. 10 miles on foot, 3 groups. Montgomery Bell State Park only as on previous trips; woods, waste lands, and new 53-acre artificial lake.—A. F. Ganier, G. R. Mayfield, H. C. Monk, H. S. Vaughn and G. B. Woodring. NORRIS:—Dec. 28, 9:30 to 4; cloudy; light N wind; temp. 34 to 40; ground bare except snow on mountains around Caryville Lake. 2 miles on foot, 17 by auto with frequent stops. Caryville to Norris, —Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Walker. GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK:—Dec. 17, 7 to 4:30; clear; wind moderate, variable; in lowlands, ground bare and dry, temp. 44 to 60; in mountains, snow-covered, 1 to 2 inches, in shaded areas, highest temp. 47. Area of 15 miles diameter centered on Bull Head and including Mt. LeConte, Mt. Kephart, Greenbriar Cove, Elkmont, and the state divide from Collins' Gap to Charlie's Bunion; also Emert's Cove and Gatlinburg and Pigeon Forge, just outside park. Altitude range, 1200 to 6000 feet. 21 observers in 7 groups. Total 43 group-hours, 43 miles on foot, 101 miles by auto. As in 1938 Red Crosbills and Pine Siskins were not to be found. The absence of Red-breasted Nuthatches proved to be quite unusual. Seed crop of spruce and fir was very light this year. The Eastern Turkey was observed a few days prior to the census.—Charles O. Baird, Jr., Mary Ruth Chiles, Edw. W. Dougherty, Lelia C. Hall, John J. Hay, H. P. Ijams, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. M. Johnson, Mrs. Frank Leonhard, Mary McGriff, Elise Morrell, S. A. Ogden, W. M. Walker, Jr., Dr. Dorothy E. Williams (Knoxville Chapter); Wm. F. Alston, Carlos C. Campbell, Betty Jean Hay, Elizabeth B. Johnson, Dr. Willis King, Joe F. Manley, and Arthur Stupka, Park Naturalist. CORINTH, MISS.:—Dec. 24, 12 to 5; very cloudy; slight wind; temp. 40. Liddon Lake (3 miles SE) to Tuscumbia bottoms (5 miles SW).—Benj. R. Warriner and Elgin Wright. MEMPHIS:—Dec. 24, 7 to 5; overcast; stiff wind; temp. 35 to 38; wet underfoot from previous day's rain, first in some time. Same territory as previous years but omitting Mud Island and N. 2nd St. just N of Wolf River, Mound City Chute, and Nonconnah Creek at Mt. Moriah road; better coverage. 20 observers; 15 working in twos and threes from three autos, each 1 to 6 miles on foot;

singly in town and park; 2 on river in cruiser late afternoon. Total, 92 party-hours.—Austin Burdick, Jr., Fred Carney, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Coffey, Jr., Bill and Jack Fowler, Dr. Louis Leroy and Louis, Jr., Joe Mason, Hugh McCain, Franklin McCamey, Jr., Fordyce Mitchel, C. E. Moore, John Pond, Mrs. M. L. Torti, Eugene Wallace, Billy Walker, Ben Welch, Wendell Whittemore, and Neal Wyatt. MOON LAKE (LULA), MISS.:—Dec. 31, 9 to 5:30; cloudy; brisk wind; temp. 35 to 45. Hwy. 61 just N of Dundee to Lula, by auto along east and south sides of Moon Lake, then N near levee, crossing same thru bottoms to Helena ferry, back to north end of lake; frequent stops. Two auto groups for the first time, together along lakeside, separate later and occasionally in pairs. Burrowing Owl, LeConte's Sparrows, and Lapland Longspurs observed at length by all.—Austin Burdick, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Ben B. Coffey, Jr., Bill and Jack Fowler, Joe Mason, Franklin McCamey, Jr., C. E. Moore, John Pond, Jim Vardaman and Ben Welch. ROSEDALE, MISS.:—Dec. 24, 7 to 3; a cold, clammy day, foggy and poor visibility; sleeting at 8:30, rain at 1:30, then clearing until 4 P.M.; temp. 42 to 38. Rosedale to Legion Lake, to Lake Bolivar, and return. 38 miles by auto and 1 on foot. The American Egret was on opposite side of Lake Bolivar and was watched for some time. It waded a considerable distance but never took flight. Possibly an injury accounts for its presence here. (Also reported subsequently—Editor). Rusty Blackbirds seen in a barnyard with kindred species. On our return journey a total of 25,000 to 35,000 Bronzed Grackles, Starlings, and Red-wings were seen going to roost. Most of the ducks were seen at Lake Bolivar.—Mr. and Mrs. M. G. Vaiden.

# THE SEASON

CLARKSVILLE AREA: To us the increase in numbers of Tree Sparrows is the outstanding change in bird population brought by the severeness of last winter. During the second half of January and all of February this was possibly our most abundant species, whereas at the end of December it was still rare. Other trends, such as the relative shortage of White-throated Sparrows, Field Sparrows, Towhees and Myrtle Warblers, the more general distribution of Fox Sparrows, and the total absence of Golden-crowned Kinglets had already been noted during the Christmas Census. During the cold spell itself, Purple Finches and Winter Wrens retired from this territory and neither Grackles nor Cowbirds were seen between Dec. 29 and Feb. 4. The Bewick's Wren became hard to find in December and we believe all of this species finally left here. Dr. Pickering noticed one again on Feb. 17, but 4 weeks later they are not yet back in usual numbers. Species that remained in spite of the cold include Great Blue Heron, Wilson's Snipe, Red-headed Woodpecker, Phoebe, these four rarely seen, and in good numbers, the Robin. A regular wave of the Eastern subspecies came in around Jan. 24, right in the midst of the coldest weather. Early in January flock after flock of ducks arrived coincidentally with the freeze along the Ohio. In other years individuals of transient species have lingered here, but this time none stayed except the true winter ducks: Mallard, Black, Ring-necked, Canvas-back, L. Scaup, Golden-eye and American Merganser. All of them except Canvas-back and Golden-eye occurred in good numbers. On Feb. 11 a change was noted; 11 Pintail were seen and Red-wings and Grackles had returned. Since that is the day on which we found the large flock of Longspurs, it may be worth mentioning that it followed closely on the atmospheric disturbance that resulted in the Georgia tornado. Blue-winged Teal arrived Feb. 17 and on the 24th a Woodcock was flushed. Savannah Sparrows began drifting back on Feb. 15 and Canada Geese flew north Feb. 25-March 3. Six Baldpates mingled with the winter ducks on Mar. 2. With the return of the Chipping Sparrow Mar. 4 and the Purple Martin on the 7th we listed the arrival of our first migrating summer residents. On the 7th also came another harbinger of spring, a Tree Swallow and on the 9th the alarmed cry of the Wood Duck rang once more from Red River. But Vesper Sparrows and Brown Thrasher keep us waiting this year. —ALFRED CLEBSCH, Clarksville.

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DUCK HAWK NEAR ALCOA:—In early October while a local sportsman was dove hunting, a hawk darted swiftly across the sky within shooting distance. When the hunter picked up the bird he realized its markings were somewhat unusual and phoned Mr. H. P. Ijams, giving him the details of the incident. The bird proved to be an immature male Duck Hawk, excellently marked.——It was taken in the flat, agricultural country near Alcoa, Tenn. some 6 or 8 miles from the Chilhowee range which is on the western side of the Great Smoky Mountains. Thus Alcoa is within easy hunting range for this swift and powerful master of flight.——Mr. Ogden mounted the bird for Mr. Ijams who then presented it to Mr. Arthur Stupka, Park Naturalist, for the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Because the Duck Hawk is one of the rarer birds of the area this specimen will be placed in the Park museum.—W. M. WALKER, Knoxville.

**TICKS ON PURPLE FINCH AND WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW:—On Feb. 24, 1940, I collected near my home a male Eastern Purple Finch (*Carpodacus p. purpureus*). While members of this species were seen hereabouts in late December, they became absent or else quite scarce during and following the zero weather we had the second half of January. This individual was alone and on examination showed one tick, swollen to the size of an English pea, attached to the nape of his neck, and another, half that size, fastened over the left eye. The bird was badly emaciated, having flabby muscles and no fat. His plumage was darkened by a heavy coat of soot. He had been feeding on buds, but, when seen, his flight was weak.** Another tick was found by Mrs. John Hutchison in her banding operations on an immature White-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia l. leucophrys*). Originally banded Nov. 3, 1939, the bird was handled again on Feb. 11, 1940, when nothing unusual was noticed. Caught next on Mar. 14 he carried over the left eye a tick, which to judge by its gray color may have been of the same species as those I found on the Purple Finch. Ticks are not found in this section until late spring, particularly not after such a hard freeze. I am informed that about six species of ticks have been found on birds and that they are the same kind that feed on mammals.—ALFRED CLEBSCH, Clarksville.

## REVIEW

NOTES ON THE BIRDS OF TENNESSEE, By Alexander Wetmore. (Proceedings U. S. National Museum, LXXXVI, 175-243, 1939).

Several years ago, Dr. Wetmore, who is Assistant Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution and an accomplished ornithologist, embarked upon a systematic field survey of the birds of the interior of the Southern States. His plan was to send field collectors into these states, taking one state each year, and to gather therefrom a series of birds in the form of study skins so that eventually the series would show whatever variation there might be and form a basis for the mapping of the range of the various species and subspecies. Beginning with West Virginia (1936), the field work was carried on next in Tennessee (1937), Kentucky (1938), and North Carolina (1939) for periods during the spring and fall. As the collections are worked over and identified, the results are published by the author in the form of annotated lists and those for Tennessee and West Virginia are now available. The Tennessee report here reviewed is publication No. 3050 from Vol. 86 of Proceedings U. S. National Museum and covers 68 pages. Following four pages of introductory remarks, itinerary, etc., there is an annotated list covering the 186 species and subspecies observed by the party, for most of which specimens were obtained.

It so happens that Tennessee, extending more than 500 miles from east to west, lies midway between the Gulf Coast Region and the Great Lakes Region and that species of a score or more of Tennessee's resident birds are represented in the above regions by different subspecies. The State therefore constitutes a region of mingling for these forms and it becomes a difficult problem to ascertain which of the subspecies should be assigned to the state or, if both are present, to map the more or less indefinite boundary that marks their separation. As a matter of fact, where two subspecies meet or overlap, a large percentage of the birds will be found to be intermediate. With most birds having a wide range one can gather specimens from the extremes of the range and find enough difference to split the species into two or more forms. This of course produces a degree of chaos within the central areas and necessitates much collecting to determine where the forms merge. In recent years ornithologists have explored the Gulf Coast and Appalachian Mountain areas and there claimed many new southern forms, for the most part depending upon a slight difference in measurements or in shade of color. As a result Tennessee has become highly involved in the problem of attempting to map the range of such of these split-species as range within her borders.

We are indebted to Dr. Wetmore for not having complicated our problem further by making additional subdivisions within the States. We are indebted to him considerably for his assistance in mapping the range of the subspecies which have already been described. By comparing the Tennessee collection with the large and varied collections available in Washington, the author was able to classify his material with as much precision as is possible between closely related forms. To our basic *Distributional List of the Birds of Tennessee* (Ganier, 1933), Dr. Wetmore's report adds the following subspecies not heretofore recorded in the State and some of which are awaiting recognition in the next A.O.U. Check-List.

1. Canada Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus togata*)
2. Western Solitary Sandpiper (*Tringa solitaria cinnamomea*)
3. Western Mourning Dove (*Zenaidura macroura marginella*)
4. Boreal Flicker (*Colaptes auratus borealis*)
5. Northern Carolina Chickadee (*Penthestes carolinensis extimus*)
6. Ohio House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon baldwini*)
7. Northern Yellow-throat (*Geothlypis trichas brachidactyla*)
8. Ridgway's Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula ridgwayi*)
9. Western Field Sparrow (*Spizella pusilla arenacea*).

Included also in Dr. Wetmore's report are records of the following subspecies described since 1933 from Tennessee and adjacent areas and prior to the publication of his paper.

10. Appalachian Chickadee (*Penthestes atricapillus practicus*)
11. Southern Creeper (*Certhia familiaris nigrescens*)
12. Southern Winter Wren (*Nannus troglodytes pullus*) and
13. Churchill Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis oblitus*)

According to Dr. Wetmore's findings, the Canada Ruffed Grouse would seem to displace the Eastern Ruffed Grouse from the *List;* likewise the Appalachian Chickadee displaces the Black-capped in our high eastern mountains and the Northern Yellow-throat displaces the Maryland Yellow-throat throughout the State. Of the Meadowlarks Dr. Wetmore found only the Southern form represented among eleven specimens collected across the State although those from the northeastern section appeared intermediate toward the northern bird. Similarly, among the Blue Jays, he comes to the conclusion that the Florida Blue Jay is the breeding form throughout. It is also noted with interest that no Northern Water-thrushes were among those collected in the mountains although it has been thought likely that this form would be found breeding there.

Those interested in the distribution of the two or more forms of the various species occurring in the State should read the findings of the author with regard to the Red-shouldered Hawk, Ruffed Grouse, Solitary Sandpiper, Mourning Dove, Screech Owl, Barred Owl, Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers, Blue Jay, Crow, Chickadees, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, House Wren, Winter Wren, Brown Thrasher, Robin, Parula Warbler, Meadowlark, Red-wing, Grackle, Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Field Sparrow, and Song Sparrow. Were space available here, it would be of interest to discuss each of the above species as well as others, especially with reference to about seventy-five skins of the subdivided species, sent to Dr. Wetmore by the reviewer in order to be examined along with those the former had assembled. A report upon these will, however, be made later in this journal. To those taxonomists who are ever ready to insert a new subspecies whereever two already recognized forms meet and intergrade, and thus to further complicate the situation, the reviewer would call attention to the conservative statements by the author with regard to this under his remarks on the Field Sparrow and the Purple Grackle.

A copy of this report should be in the hands of all T.O.S. members interested in the distribution of Tennessee birds and the author advises that he will honor requests for copies. While the findings with regard to many forms are as yet far from conclusive, still an excellent ground work is laid, to be built upon as further collecting can be done. The building up of adequate collections of bird skins is a tedious and time-taking task which the amateur is inclined to shirk and such has been the case in the South. The author's style of writing is very readable and is as non-technical as could be desired upon what, after all, is a somewhat technical subject.—A. F. GANIER.

# THE MIGRANT

A QUARTERLY JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE STUDY OF TENNESSEE BIRDS.
PUBLISHED BY THE TENNESSEE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY.
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**Regional Editors: Albert F. Ganier, Nashville; W. M. Walker, Knoxville;**
**Bruce P. Tyler, Johnson City; Alfred Clebsch, Clarksville.**

*"The simple truth about birds is interesting enough,*
*it is not necessary to go beyond it."*

PLEASE NOTIFY THE SECRETARY OF A CHANGE IN ADDRESS

We are indebted to various of our members for the timely illustrations in this issue. The excellent pictures of the Red-shouldered Hawks and the Great Horned Owl are by Mr. M. H. Oldham of Harrisburg, Ark. Pages 15 and 18 were arranged by Mr. Albert F. Ganier and include a picture of the Chukars, supplied by the Game and Fish Division of the Tennessee Department of Conservation, one of an immature Goshawk, courtesy of the Nashville Banner, one of Purple Martins at their nesting box by Dr. Chas. F. Pickering, and last but not least a drawing of Northern Horned Lark and Lapland Longspurs made especially for this issue by Mr. Ganier. We also want to express our appreciation to Dr. Earl O. Henry for his fine potrayal of the Upland Plover which graces the cover of this issue. We intend to call on Dr. Henry's talents again. The beautiful cover design used in recent years is also by a Knoxvillian, Mr. Harry P. Ijams, one of our veteran members. This design will still be used but when possible we plan to utilize the cover to present and preserve suitable drawings as well as to lend variety to the cover.

We also desire to express our thanks for a gift of $10 from the Knoxville Chapter to the T. O. S. treasury, or, in effect, for publication of *The Migrant*. This is not their first generous assistance.

In the September issue—the Twenty-fifth Anniversary issue—we hope to print photographs of all our chapters in action. So local photographers get busy on the spring field days and let us have something to use.

John James Audubon appears on an U.S. postage stamp this year for the first time, the design being one of thirty-five known as the 'Famous Americans' series. Five denominations are repeated for seven groups of men, the classifications being: authors, poets, educators, scientists, composers, artists, and inventors. Audubon's likeness appears on the one-cent denomination of the 'scientists' group. The first date of sale is April 8 at St. Francisville, La., which is associated with the life and works of the famous ornithologist. We are leaving a space for you to attach this engraved portrait miniature honoring him.

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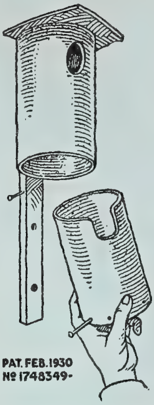

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## CALENDAR—T. O. S. ACTIVITIES

### Spring Field Days and Census Trips

April 28—Knoxville Chapter, Island Home (Ijams) Farm.

May 5—Clarksville Chapter, Red River, Montgomery County.

May 5—Memphis Chapter, Lakeview, Tenn.-Miss.

May 12—Nashville Chapter, A Highland Rim stream. T. O. S. Business Meeting at the same time

May 19—Blue Grass Chapter, Osceola (Porter Farm), Columbia.

June 16-22—Field Week in Tenn. Mts. (to be arranged,—A.F.G.)

June—Try a breeding bird census in a restricted area nearby.

Sept. 1-2—Labor Day, an opportune time for bird trips.

Sept. 7-8—Mud Lake (Memphis) shorebird census, subject to water levels. (Contact Ben Coffey, Sept 1-2 if desired).

The above is only a partial outline of a very active program. Are you taking part in these activities and projects?

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# The Migrant

A Quarterly Journal Devoted to Tennessee Birds

JUNE, 1940

Published by The Tennessee Ornithological Society

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# THE MIGRANT

VOL. XI JUNE, 1940 NO. 2

Published by the Tennessee Ornithological Society, to Record and Encourage the Study of Birds in Tennessee. Issued in March, June, September and December.

## TRAMPING WITH THE 'BIRD MAN'

By Bruce P. Tyler

### VI. THE VULTURE'S CAVE

High in the dolomitic cliffs along the waters of the upper Holston River, the Black Vultures find small caves admirably suited to their nesting habits. Nesting early in the season, they are a special temptation to the oologist and an inspiration to the ornithologist—just like the first fruits from the garden, the first blooms from the pansy bed, which cheer and encourage the gardener to further efforts.

With their minds set on securing photographs of a Vulture's home and eggs, the Bird Man and his colleague, Bob, start at early dawn for the craggy home of *Coragyps atratus atratus*. Success attends their efforts and satisfactory photographs are obtained. While the Oologist is within the cave packing his trophies the Bird Man is at the diminutive entrance packing his photographic outfit.

It is said of fishermen that what they desire most is to be on the other side of the river they are fishing, feeling sure that luck would be more favorable if only a line could be dropped from yonder boulder. The same idea must invade human minds engaged in other pursuits—perhaps, even the minds of bird photographers, even the mind of the Bird Man. It seems to him that on the cliff just across the mouth of the cave (on the other side as it were) there would be more room for easy manipulation of photographic paraphernalia. So, gathering up his outfit, the Bird Man steps gingerly along a very narrow ledge of rock, then takes a full stride across the mouth of the cave to a substantial looking rock covered with grey moss. Appearances were deceiving—the moss and rock crumble under the impact of the Bird Man's boot. There is no opportunity for recovering a secure footing and, camera in hand, the Bird Man falls against the face of the cliff, starting on what might be a long journey. Either the sudden shadow across the mouth of the cave or the sound of falling rubble alarms Bob inside. With adroit promptness he leaps to the mouth of the cave just in time to see the Bird Man and outfit starting on an unceremonious ride down the cliff, but fortunately, just in time to grasp him by the coat.

Now the Bird Man knows one thing never before contemplated—or thinks he knows—just how an aviator finding it necessary to bale out, feels when the harness tightens and he is aware that his parachute is open and his safety assured.

JUL -5 1940

## VII. THE YEAR OF DROUGHT

Dry is no name for it. The Bird Man labors in his garden with hoe and hose to save his plants. One evening, near the sunset hour, finds him watering his evergreens. Now the birds hear very well, indeed, and they love the water. The sound of dripping from the foliage of the evergreens comes to the attention of a Yellow Warbler which was nesting in a nearby tulip tree. Sitting on the guy wire of an aerial support, above the evergreens, is mother warbler, fluffing and ruffling her feathers in joyful anticipation of a bath long deferred. The Bird Man turns the spray from the hose high into the air, allowing it to fall on the bird. While so doing the Bird Man's memory carries him back to the days of the joys of his own "old swimming hole." Mother warbler enjoys her bath to the fullest then disappears. Returning soon with her mate, she plunges again into the spray, but her mate, a 'doubting Thomas,' keeps at a goodly distance, notwithstanding the urging of his mate. Soon, however, the mother bird's reassurances and example wins him over and he, too, enjoys the luxury of a bath in the 'man-made' shower.

## VIII. PLANTING FOR THE BIRDS

The Bird Man loves his flower garden in the early morning hours just as the sun peeks in from the Eastern horizon—the plants dripping dew.

What is in the garden and why? Well the garden has been planted with regard to the needs and wishes of the birds, as well as to the needs and wishes of Mrs. Bird Man. The particular morning that is in mind is in the early fall of 1939. The garden is surrounded with a hedge of scarlet sage, now in full bloom, for the Hummingbirds. There is a cluster of baby sunflowers which pleases the Goldfinches. Plantings of anemones, dahlias, zinnias, phlox, delphiniums, pinks, and a patch of chrysanthemums, together with a bird bath for all the birds, complete the autumnal setting of the garden.

The birds are migrating. Most conspicuous among them is the Ruby-throated Hummingbird. This morning there are twenty, by count, loving the nectar of the sage and sporting in the vicinity of the Bird Man. They seem to understand that there is no danger. Within a few moments one of these lustrous beauties thrice feeds not two feet away from the Bird Man's eyes. How they all love to play in the sunshine. Now, two are snapping their little beaks at each other, flying as high as the cottage roof, then, folding their wings, they dive for the hedge of sage. Rare, indeed, are the days when twenty hummers are seen at one time in the garden, yet seldom at this time of the year are they absent entirely. Twice this season the Bird Man holds one of these shimmering, lovely little creatures in his hand just for a caress and a wish for its joy and safety.

The sunflower patch is ever filled with Goldfinches now wearing their winter garb, the young birds still begging their parents for food, but being instructed in gleaning for themselves. Also this season brings to the garden the Nashville and Tennessee Warblers for their only visit of the year.

Near the flower garden is the berry patch, beloved spot of all the birds. In the early summer there is competition among the birds for proprietorship. Even when the Bird Man essays to pick the berries for his table, he is soundly scolded by the Catbirds, interrogated by the Carolina Wrens, ogled by the Robins, and his judgment deplored by the Red-headed Woodpecker who views with disdain the procedure from the top of a nearby telegraph pole.

### IX. NOT SO VERY NICE

The Bird Man has a worthy and faithful colleague, Robert Barton Lyle, with a leaning toward oology. From early youth Bob has combed the forests and fields for specimens (never disturbing nests save for a full clutch) and now, after years of search, he has a most beautiful private collection. Well, that is nice, but, this item is titled 'Not So Very Nice' for reasons that you will soon observe, we had best return to our text.

One early spring morning, to Bob's great joy, he discovers a Turkey Vulture nesting in a hollow log, lying prone on the forest floor. The nesting bird is flushed and reveals a fine pair of eggs deep in the woody recess of the log. With difficulty the eggs are retrieved, but not without the vigorous disapproval of mother vulture who keeps diving at the despoiler of her home with no apparent success. But Bob, eggs in hand, is departing when the vulture dives at him again and, deeming the situation most critical for herself, she plays her highest trump, regurgitating a meal of carrion upon his person. We have the 'Geranium Pussy' odoriferously protecting itself, but who could imagine that any bird could be such a competent competitor?

JOHNSON CITY, June, 1940

# FURTHER NOTES ON MISSISSIPPI BIRDS

BY M. G. VAIDEN

In the regular routine of certain work for Dr. Louis B. Bishop, Pasadena, California, I am publishing, with his permission, certain identifications of skins sent to him. These are marked with an asterisk (*) at the beginning of each specimen described. Other specimens have been identified for me by Dr. Alexander Wetmore of the U.S. National Museum, Washington, D.C., and due credit is given under each species he has identified. All specimens not marked with an asterisk (*) are in my personal collection.

I believe that the additional list given here will be of interest to the readers of *The Migrant*, for in some instances the identified forms should establish a breeding range for certain species in this immediate territory at least. It is interesting in one's field work to believe that his observations cover a certain form of the species of what he might reasonably expect during the nesting season and during the migration season should he be a careful and fortunate observer. One making field observations must keep in mind always that two objects must contact, and mainly by chance, when in search of birds. You, as one object, may pass over several seasons without meeting the other object, the bird you are making careful search to record.

Today some of the birds are here, and tomorrow they are gone. While you know the favored localities the birds will visit, yet your arrival may not coincide with the time of the bird's visit. If you are a true field naturalist, you will not give up and will generally meet with success should you continue to search for those birds normally expected to be found occasionally in your home area. Your daily field cards may show that you should find a certain species at approximately a given date, but when you make a search of your favorite woodland, you will not find one of the species you are especially in search of.

This article is a continuation of a former one appearing in *The Migrant* for September, 1939, pages 44-46.

EASTERN RED-TAILED HAWK, *Buteo jamaicensis borealis.*—A specimen taken April 24, 1935, an adult female, was identified as this form. It is the nesting form for this territory. (*Buteo borealis borealis* of the 1931 A.O.U. Check-list).

(*) KRIDER'S HAWK *Buteo jamaicensis krideri.*—A specimen taken four miles south of Moorhead, Mississippi, January 15, 1940, an immature male, was identified by Dr. Louis Bishop, Pasadena, California, as this subspecies of *jamaicensis.* I do not find where this bird has been collected in the state heretofore. (*Buteo borealis krideri* of the 1931 A.O.U. Check-list).

WESTERN RED-TAILED HAWK, *Buteo jamaicensis calurus.* This form was again taken in our state (*The Migrant*, 1939, p. 44), and is the second reported collection for the state. This specimen was taken November 28, 1939, near Rosedale and was a female. Identification was made as to subspecies by Dr. Alexander Wetmore, U.S. National Museum, Washington, D.C. (*Buteo borealis calurus* of the 1931 A.O.U Check-list).

(*) WESTERN MOURNING DOVE, *Zenaidura macroura marginella.* A male collected one-half mile southwest of Moorhead, Mississippi, on April 1, 1940, was identified by Dr. Louis Bishop as this western form of the dove.

WESTERN BURROWING OWL, *Speotyto cunicularia hypugaea.*—This form was again taken in Mississippi, when on February 21, 1940, Sammie M. Ray collected one near a gin site some twelve miles north of Moorhead, Mississippi. It is a male in fine plumage and is in the collection of the writer.

FLORIDA BARRED OWL, *Strix varia georgica.*—Two specimens sent to Dr. Wetmore, a male collected May 3, and a female December 5, 1939, were identified as *georgica.* This should establish the nesting form for this territory as the Florida Barred Owl by reason of the May 3 collection. (*Strix varia alleni* of the 1931 A.O.U. Check-list).

(*) FLORIDA BLUE JAY, *Cyanocitta cristata cristata.* A male of this form taken on April 2, 1940, one-half mile south of Moorhead, Mississippi, was identified by Dr. Bishop as the southern form and should be the nesting species of this immediate area at least. (*Cyanocitta cristata florincola* of the 1931 A.O.U. Check-list). In connection with this species it would be well to review pages 416-419 of Bulletin 28, Department of Conservation, State of Louisiana, 1938, by Dr. Harry C. Oberholser.

SOUTHERN CROW, *Corvus brachyrhynchos paulus.* A male taken March 17, 1938, proved to be this form and should establish the nesting form here as of this subspecies. Identification by Dr. Wetmore.

(*) WESTERN PARULA WARBLER, *Compsothlypis americana ramalinae.* A male of this form was collected south of Moorhead, Mississippi, on April 3, 1940. This should be our nesting form.

ROSEDALE, MISS., May 12, 1940.

# PRICELESS NOTES

BY BENJ. R. WARRINER

I never tire of thumbing the pages of my bird diary. The record has been only crudely kept, yet with enough accuracy to tell a fairly complete story of my experiences of the birds in wood and field. In the beginning, some fifteen years ago, a majority of the various varieties were new ones for me, as I knew only the commoner kinds. The positive identification of each stranger always brought a degree of real pleasure. My notes now enable me to live over again each happy moment. I recall the exact spot, together with all other details, where I first found a particular kind. For instance, there was that first Oven-bird; and again several years later the second one. The first during October, just across the Tenn.-Miss. line on a pine and hardwood hillside. The other was under a shrub at my backdoor, on a day in May. Only two Oven-birds have come my way.

I could go blind-folded to the hickory tree deep in Tuscumbia Bottom where I saw my first Redstart; and farther on in the same territory to the place where a Swainson's Warbler ranged furtively in dark shadows along the edge of a slough. There has been only one other Swainson's but there have been a thousand Redstarts.

As a matter of fact I do not need the notes to recall most of the high spots; yet the notes do make each experience more vivid. I have found it quite difficult to learn the songs of all of the birds; nevertheless I have worked untiringly at the job. I have found that it helps, to record a description for permanent keeping of the songs with which I am not familiar. There was that first song of a Fox Sparrow; the first of a Ruby-crowned Kinglet; and the first of a Kentucky Warbler. I remember well the first Maryland Yellow-throat that sang for me while he perched on a reed beside a ditch. I thought the sprite would split his throat. My first Yellow-breasted Chat did everything vocally that John Burroughs described as being characteristic of that rascal. I have come across many birds whose songs I did not know, but I have been content in the knowledge that every bird that sings and flies away will live to sing another day.

True, my notes do contain many of the commonplace bits of bird lore, but mixed in the pages there are red-letter days that stand out vividly enough to make each fresh perusal of them a real joy. I make it a rule to jot down, at least in abbreviated form, the record of each bird hike. Something of interest always turns up to be recorded.

CORINTH, MISS., May 6, 1940.

# GREEN: BANDING CHIMNEY SWIFTS IN THE REGION OF CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE

### A REVIEW BY JOHN POND

The material of this article arose from Prof. Wyman R. Green's banding work in 1928, 1929, and 1930 and from the co-operation of Dr. W. K. Butts and of Louis Cook who banded in 1931 and 1932, respectively, at Station 9 which Green had used in 1930. With the exceptions of work done at Snoddy, Tennessee, and at Jasper, Tennessee, all trapping was done either in the city of Chattanooga or in the immediate environs. Station 7 was at Snoddy, 19 miles north of Chattanooga. Station 10 was at Jasper, 27 miles west, across Walden's Ridge and the Sequatchie Valley. A tabular summary of the banding done by Prof. Green follows:

| Sta. | Date | No. Banded | Repeats | Recoveries | Returns-I | Returns-x |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Oct. 16, 1928 | 1,000 | — | 10 | 81 | 14 |
| 2 | May 25, 1929 | 91 | — | — | 9 | 2 |
| 3 | Sept. 21, 1929 | 1,500 | 13 | 12 | 80 | 15 |
| 4 | Oct. 8, 1929 | 1,147 | 12 | 11 | 85 | 7 |
| 5 | Oct. 19, 1929 | — | flock of 985 examined only | | | |
| 6 | Sept. 24, 1930 | 880 | 146 | 6 | 24 | 15 |
| 7 | Sept. 28, 1930 | 2,650 | 34 | 16 | 49 | — |
| 8 | Sept. 30, 1930 | 2,272 | 151 | 24 | 37 | 1 |
| 9 | Oct. 4 & 5, 1930 | 6,357 | 25 | 50 | 71 | 3 |
| 10 | Oct. 9, 1930 | 1,268 | — | 11 | 10 | — |

A total of 17,165 Swifts were banded in the three seasons. Of these 1,058 individuals have been reported retaken in the years 1929-1940. Shortly after the above banding operations Prof. Green removed to Drew University, Madison, N.J.

(NOTE:—The last four columns were compiled by the reviewer and are captioned by terms different from those used by Prof. Green. The 'repeats' are those retrapped the same season, 'recoveries' are those taken outside the Chattanooga area, 'returns-1' are those retrapped some subsequent season at Chattanooga by Green, Butts, or Cook, and include an occasional bird recovered individually in the city. 'Repeats-x' are those arbitrarily termed 'repeats' by Prof. Green, being those birds retrapped twice or more and thus include 'repeats' which subsequently are 'returns' or vice-versa and also 'returns-2', 'returns-3', etc.—EDITOR).

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Green, Wyman R. 1940. Banding of Chimney Swifts (*Chaetura pelagica*), in the Region of Chattanooga, Tennessee. *Bird-Banding*, Vol. XI, April. Pp. 37-57.

Recoveries from those banded at each station indicate a wide dispersion of the members of each flock during the summer months. From records on Station 9 we find clear evidence of the hypothesis: one of these Swifts was reported in Manvel, Texas on April 30, 1931; only four days later, one was recaptured in Marietta, Ohio. On May 7 and 8, 1931, two were reported from Ashland, Virginia and Woleska, Georgia, respectively. June 3 and 4 one was reported from Fisherville, Ontario and another from Vanceburg, Kentucky. June 7 and 9 one at Hillsboro, Nebraska, and one at St. Hillaire Village, Quebec. Reports for the month of June show recoveries in Georgia, Ohio, Michigan, Kentucky, Wisconsin, New York, Ontario, and Quebec. The flock was most obviously well scattered during the summer of 1931. Yet here Mr. Green finds opportunity to bring out another point which he has found to hold with regard to the general migration habits of the Chimney Swift; i.e., regardless of apparently total dispersion during the summer, the flock tends to move southward in the fall over the same route it has followed going north in the preceding spring. In October, 1931, the same flock of Station 9 which had covered the country during the summer was in Chattanooga in such strength that Dr. Butts recaptured 49 of these birds in their southward migration. Likewise from the eight other bandings the Swifts have always scattered to the north and west in summer after the fall of banding; yet during the next fall 22 birds of flock 1 were retaken in Chattanooga, 3 of No. 2; 71 of No. 3; 77 of No. 4; 22 of No. 6; 45 of No. 7; 33 of No. 8, and 10 of No. 10. It seems evident, too, that the same flock moves northward each year over the same route, since it not infrequently happens that as high a proportion of a given flock can be recaptured at a given station two years after banding as one year after banding.

A perusal of the dates of return and recovery in relation to the dates of banding and a tabulation therefrom by the reviewer shows the minimum-age groups to be as follows:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 year | 406 | 6 year | 8 |
| 2 year | 147 | 7 year | 3 |
| 3 year | 20 | 9 year | 3 |
| 4 year | 11 | 10 year | 1 |
| 5 year | 17 | 11 year | 1 |

In calculating the above, Swifts banded in the fall of the year were considered to be at least one year old all thru the following season from the time they returned to this country until they left in the fall, a year from date of banding. About 31 Swifts are included in more than one group above. From the data as given it was not possible to eliminate such records.

The oldest record was of a Swift banded October 16, 1928 and recovered Oct. 22, 1939, at Nashville, Tennessee by Mrs. Amelia R. Laskey. This bird was retrapped and released 11 years and 6 days after banding. Two other records were of a Swift recovered by R. B. Brown at Mt. Vernon, Ohio, 10 years, 4 months, and 5 days after banding, and another at Nashville (Laskey), 8 years, 11 months, and 14 days afterwards.

The history of 'repeats' (Swifts banded by Green and retaken two or more times subsequent to banding are designated by Green as 'repeats') opens the way for the investigation of several questions: Are Swifts monogamists? Does the family bond hold a group of birds together for a season or two? Two birds of Station 1 were retaken at No. 4 a year after banding; these same two were recaptured at No. 7 two years after banding, along with four others which had been banded with them at No. 1. Two days later all six were taken again at No. 8. Again, out of seven repeats from No. 4, one group of three were taken, after a year, at No. 6 and ten days later at No. 9; a second group of three appeared at No. 7 a year after banding and eight days later at No. 9. Perhaps these cases are evidence of the uncommon occurrence of the family group among Swifts; to explain them as mere coincidences calls for a wilful disregard of mathematical expectancy.

In conclusion we reproduce Prof. Green's summary verbatim below:

### SUMMARY

"1. *Effects of the death rate.* Assuming that we band 1,000 swifts on their southward migration, it appears that we can account for the diminishing numbers (see preceding paragraph) we can recapture at the same station each year thereafter on the basis of the known rate alone, even though it be true that nearly all of the members of the entire flock should pass southward through the same region each year after banding. If this be true then conclusion No. 2 follows.

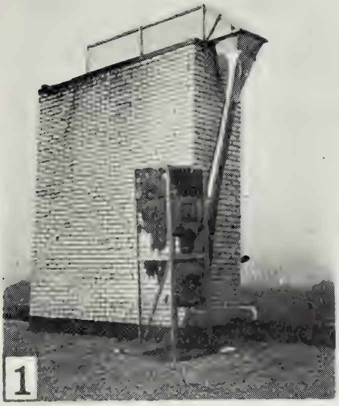
2. *Diffusion..* That we can recover only about 1% of the swifts banded at a given station just a few days after banding means not that the flock has at once largely dispersed to other distant regions, but that we had probably banded a very small percentage of the swifts in the vicinity, and that there is a daily general diffusion of the swifts in the immediate region. This is in line with the work of other banders. (H. S. Peters, 1937, Calhoun, 1938.)

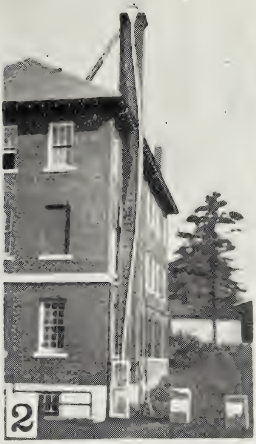
"3. *Migration routes.* The general direction of migration movements is northeast-southwest, more or less parallel with the Atlantic coast, as other banders have noted. It seems that in general a given flock will become more widely scattered as they move northward; but evidently they get together again at their winter quarters, and traverse about the same routes annually, since it not infrequently happens that as high a proportion of a given flock can be recaptured at a given station two years after banding as one, or for that matter, a few days after banding.

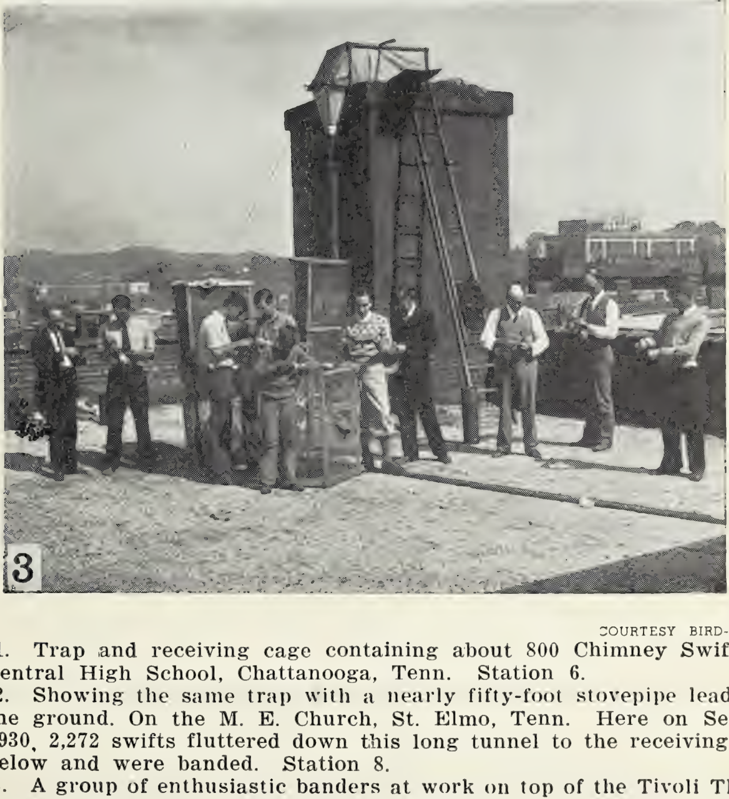
"4. *Monogamy.* There is some good evidence that swifts pair for more than one season, and that family solidarity may account for the fact that several individuals may be found together more often than could likely be due to chance. These phenomena merit full investigation.

"5. *Future work.* While the banding of flocks should continue, the writer is convinced that the work should be definitely planned and coordinated throughout the country. Banders should now give their attention to the banding of the nesting pairs, and their young before they leave their nests."

MEMPHIS, June 15, 1940.





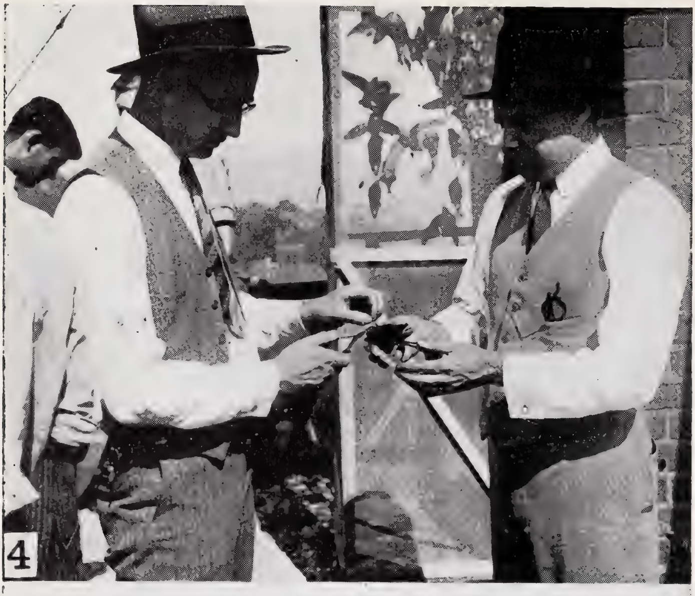


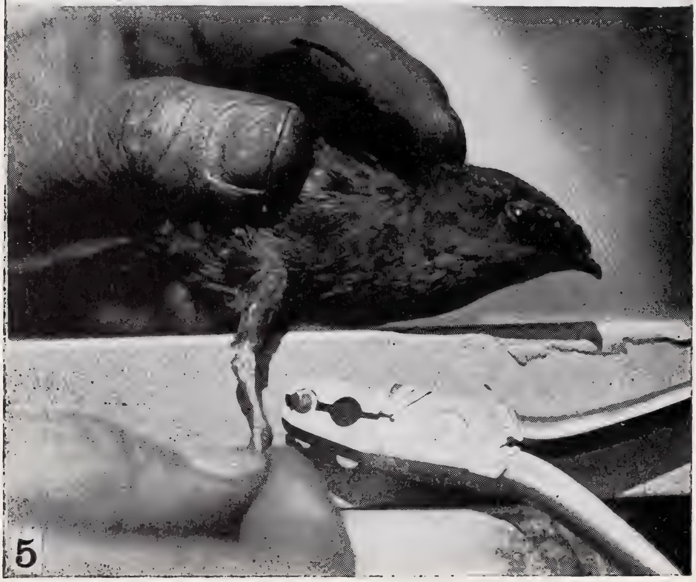
COURTESY BIRD-BANDING

FIG. 1. Trap and receiving cage containing about 800 Chimney Swifts. On Central High School, Chattanooga, Tenn. Station 6.

FIG. 2. Showing the same trap with a nearly fifty-foot stovepipe leading to the ground. On the M. E. Church, St. Elmo, Tenn. Here on Sept. 30, 1930, 2,272 swifts fluttered down this long tunnel to the receiving cages below and were banded. Station 8.

FIG. 3. A group of enthusiastic banders at work on top of the Tivoli Theater, Chattanooga, Tenn. The total catch here was about 8,000, of which 6,357 were banded on Oct. 4 and 5, 1930. Station 9.

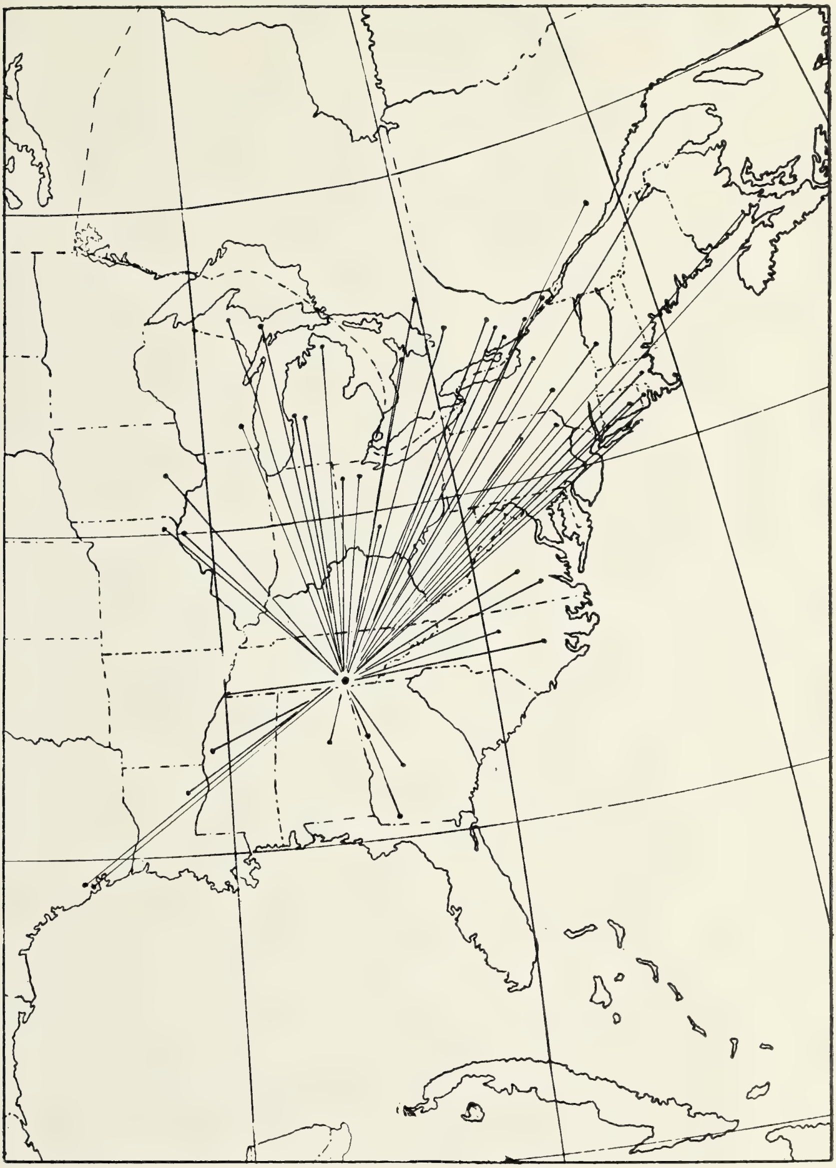




COURTESY BIRD-BANDING

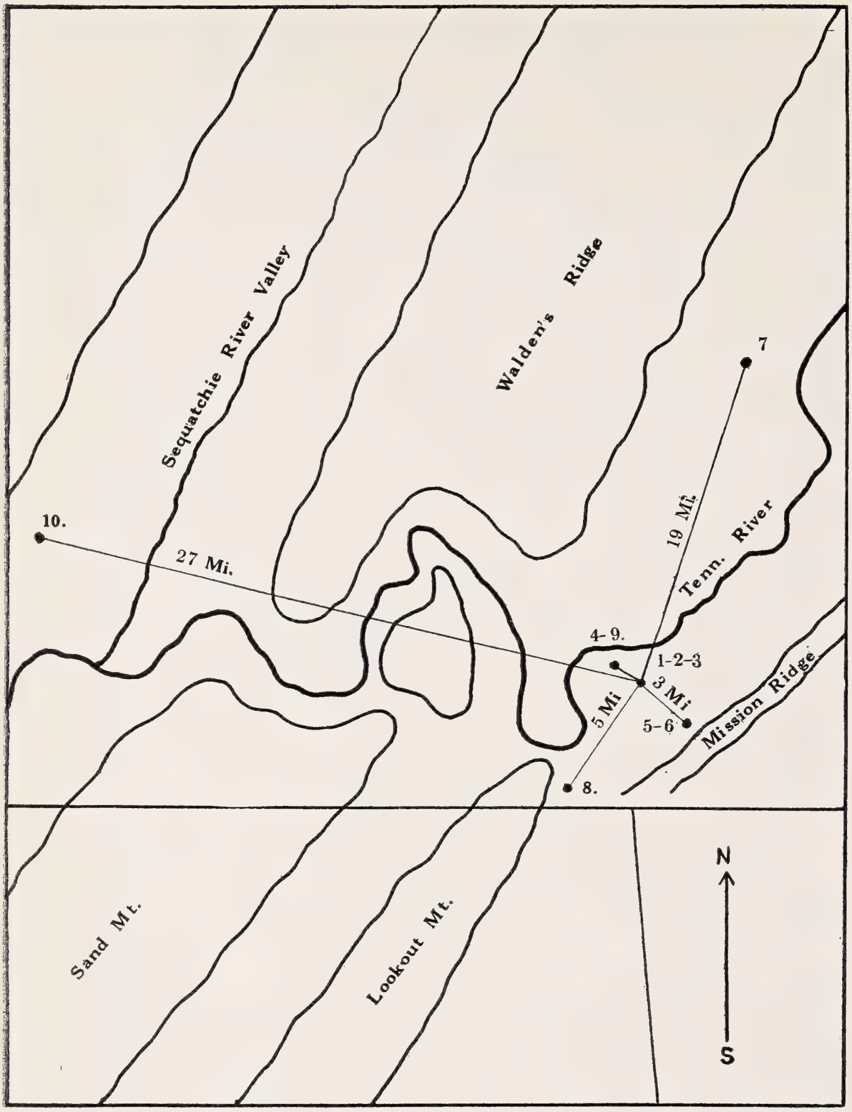
FIG. 4. Robert Sparks Walker, Chattanooga's nature poet, right, and the author, co-operating. We found that two thus working together can band about four times as many swifts per hour as one working alone.

FIG. 5. Showing how inexpensive pliers can be modified into an efficient banding tool. Bird banders will find them indispensable. (Kennard, 1930).



COURTESY BIRD-BANDING

Fig. 6. Map showing where 47 of the swifts have been recaptured. While we have records of 1,058 recoveries, these 47 sufficiently indicate the general area over which our flocks have spread.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COURTESY BIRD-BANDING

FIG. 7. Diagram of the Chattanooga region, showing the location of our ten stations. Stations 1, 2 and 3, were near together on the campus of the University of Chattanooga. Stations 4 and 9 were near each other in the business district, and 5 and 6 were both on the campus of the Central High School. The distances of the outlying stations from the University campus are indicated in miles. Number 7 is Soddy, Tenn., No. 8, St. Elmo (near the state line), and No. 10 is Jasper.

# TAXIDERMY ON A BRIDGE TABLE

BY PAUL K. BRYANT.

It all commenced when a well-meaning neighbor came over one evening, bringing a dead Sparrow Hawk which had been nesting in a hole at the top of a telephone pole at the edge of our yard.

"I shot this hawk because it was molesting those poor little Starlings that are nesting in that pole out there," the neighbor explained. "It came out of that hole on the Starling's back, trying to kill it. It also has egg on its bill and must have eaten the Starling's eggs." After explaining the relative merits of the two birds, we went to the telephone and called Albert Ganier. Yes, he would make a skin out of the specimen, so we drove the six miles across town to take it to him.

The following week the neighbor was back at our door again. "I got a Screech Owl today when I was out after doves," he said, and tossed the small bundle of feathers to us. Again we went to the phone. "Mr. Ganier," we began, (and if someone had only stopped the conversation there!). "Mr. Ganier, this is Bryant again. I am now in possession of a dead Screech Owl. If this parade of dead birds to my house is going to continue, I think I will start a collection of my own. How do I prepare this bird?" Very patiently Mr. Ganier gave us the necessary instructions, down to the last detail. We could hardly wait to get started.

In a few minutes we had a card table set up in one corner of a spare room. A partly used sack of corn meal, left over from making mush balls for carp fishing during the summer, a paring knife, three used razor blades, a pair of toe-nail snips, a box of borax, some arsenic, a ball of cotton and a piece of wire comprised the equipment and supplies that we were able to muster up from closets and pantry. Then the slaughter began.

With the apparent assurance of one who knew what he was about, we rolled up a ball of cotton and forced it down the owl's throat. Then placing the bird on its back on a newspaper in the center of the card table, we parted the feathers down the bird's breast and deftly made an incision with a razor blade. There was really nothing to it. Loosening the skin on each side of the slit, we took some meal from the sack and sprinkled it on the exposed flesh. The feathers must not get wet.

What is this? From out the meal scoots several brown bugs. Hastily we glance around. The wife is still busy in the front room. We pinch the bugs and drop them on the newspaper. That sack of meal should not have been left open on the floor of our fishing equipment cabinet.

The owl's skin is worked loose on down around the sides. A rather strong odor begins to permeate the air. Wonder just how long it had been since the neighbor went on that dove hunt? Something is crawling on our left sleeve. It is very small. A mite. We pinch him and leave a smear of corn meal on the cuff. The owl's leg will not come up through the breast opening, as Mr. Ganier instructed. We make the opening bigger. Bits of down and a few small feathers are floating about in the air. Our nose begins to tickle but a glance at the smeared cuff shows that we can not scratch. We snort and blow, but the tickling continues. The nose is finally rubbed high up on the other sleeve. A flat yellowish bug slides across one hand and back into the feathers. Lice!

Pushing and pulling, the owl's leg is about to come through. Tilting the bird upwards, the cornmeal streams out, into our lap and on down to the floor. The wife is quiet in the other room, reading. We thank our stars for that, and the leg comes through. Mr. Ganier said to cut the legs off at the joint. Which joint? We cut it off at the knee, pull that out and cut off another joint. Fewer bones to scrape. The other leg is done the same way, all the while pouring on more meal and pinching more bugs. Then comes the vent. Mr. Ganier had said something about using a small pair of scissors and cutting carefully around it. The wife forbade us using her manicure scissors. Oh, well. A razor blade quickly cuts through that point and also frees the tail. Hurrah! Now we are getting somewhere. It is only 9:00 P.M., and we started at 7:00. The skin is worked loose up the back, the wings are peeled back and the flesh removed, and the bones unjointed where they hinge on to the body. Nothing holds it now but the head.

Carefully we work the skin wrongside-out up to the neck. More feathers get up our nose, and mites crawl unmolested on both hands. The floor around us is covered with so much meal that it has taken on a sanded finish. But we are now in this fight to the finish. Onward, my boy! Something sharp punctures the skin and sticks into the palm of our hand. It is the owl's bill. We push it back and go on. The owl's skull is at least three times as big around as its neck. We are reminded of the times as a child when we had to work a big orange out of our small Christmas stocking before we could get at the contents beneath.

At last we come to the ears. Did Mr. Ganier say anything about them? We have forgotten. The razor blade slices them off. Then the eyes. They meet the same fate. At last we are down to the base of the bill. We turn the bird over and try to get the neck loose. It won't come, so we cut it off. Slipping to the back door we toss the loosened carcass out to the ash heap. We will bury it tomorrow. We start pulling the fat and strips of meat off the skin. A big rip immediately appears. We scrape the rest with a blade.

Now to remove the brains. All instructions are forgotten. The hunter had saved us a lot of trouble here, as the skull was crushed on top. We dish the contents out, then dry the interior with meal. Piece by piece we flake out minute quantities of meat. Then we dust all the skin with borax and place it in an open window to dry. After a heavy session of house cleaning, we hit the bed at 11:30, tired but with the feelings of one who has triumphed over a difficult situation.

The following evening we fix wire and cotton in the skull, dampen the skin at the neck and start reversing the feathers. We pull a while, dampen a while, and cuss a while. At last the skin comes over! And what a look that bird has on its face! Mouth wide open, and all head feathers pointing straight out in front! They refuse to lay down. One side of the neck is white and bare, and wire is visible through a rip in the other side. One side of the back is also bare. That bird must have been molting!

As we sit contemplating the results, another knock is heard at the door. If it is that neighbor . . . . We open the door. It is a neighbor from the other side. "Beg pardon," he says, "someone told me you were mounting an owl. My cat has dragged the main part of that owl up on my porch and I wish you would get it and bury it, if you don't mind."—I buried the owl.

But am I discouraged? Not after what George Woodring told me. He says that you have to make fifty skins before you get a good one. So I have only forty-nine more to go. Before I start another one I am going to have some fresh cornmeal Some surgeons' scalpels. Several different kinds of chemicals. A work bench. A rubber apron. Some bone-snips, glass eyes, wire forms, etc., etc., etc. And my wife says I can also build a house to go around the whole works and stay in it until I get through.

NASHVILLE, June, 1940.

# LINCOLN'S NEW BOOK

A REVIEW BY BENJ. R. WARRINER

Migration, unmistakably, is the most interesting phase of bird study, the most puzzling part of bird life. In spite of a vast story of knowledge gained, many problems remain hidden in mystery. This enigmatic condition adds zest to the pursuit of further information.

Much has been written about the birds that fly but it has remained for Dr. Frederick C. Lincoln to achieve the finest piece of work yet done. Associated with the U.S. Department of the Interior as Senior Biologist, Chief of the Section of the Distribution and Migration of Birds, he is an authority of unquestioned ability. In his new book, The Migration of American Birds (Doubleday, Doran & Company), he has used a great deal of old material, facts already revealed and known to all who are seriously interested in bird life. On the other hand Dr. Lincoln has crowded into the book a wealth of new discovery. He sticks to his subject faithfully and resists the temptation to stray away into other fields. As the title indicates, it is a book on migration. The publishers predict that the book will become a classic. Lacking only in the element of time it is already a classic.

Well illustrated with maps, some old and some new, the volume contains twelve chapters. Those on Bird Banding and the Flyway Systems contain the highlights. I refer particularly to only two items among hundred bits of intriguing information.

First, scores of records are cited of banded birds,—reports that have come in from points far and wide. All show that a majority of the birds meet tragic ends and that the birds' enemies are legion. The list is headed by man and boy with deadly shot and shell. Proof is positive that all the birds live precarious lives. When one banded bird is killed it is safe to conclude that ten thousand birds that have not been banded meet the same fate.

Second, I quote from pages 164 and 166 of the book, "It (the Mississippi Flyway) is used by such vast numbers of ducks, geese, shore birds, blackbirds, sparrows, warblers and thrushes, that observers stationed at favorable points in the Mississippi Valley during the height of migration, can see a greater number of species and individuals of migratory birds than can be noted anywhere else in the world."

The map at page 167 shows this Flyway to be the greatest of all bird routes. As it passes through Arkansas and West Tennessee, it narrows itself down to a path some hundred and fifty or two hundred miles in width, with the great river as the central line of the path. Corinth, Mississippi, my home, is on the eastern fringe of the Flyway; here I miss many of the water birds that use the route. But thanks to Dr. Lincoln and his magnificent book, I can still know and see the birds that fly in answer to that mysterious urge.

CORINTH, MISS., May, 1940.

# THE SEASON

MEMPHIS AREA:—On April 28 a Lark Sparrow was observed southeast of Gallaway, across the line in Fayette County. This is a very rare species in this area. Earlier a Red-breasted Nuthatch was recorded south of Arlington. This was evidently a late transient. The only other record for the season was made in Piney Woods during the January cold spell. In the Loosahatchie bottoms just east of Arlington we found 3 Swainson's Warblers, 2 being in song. Earlier another had been heard in the Wolf River bottoms just north of Germantown. The Arlington birds were not located on a return visit May 6. Others were watched for without success. However, one was found north of Greenwood, Miss. on May 26.——On the annual spring field day at Lakeview, May 5, 124 species were listed despite the fact that almost no shorebirds were present. The 'highway bar-pit' where we had nests of King Rail, Pied-billed Grebe, and Least Bittern, with young of the first two last year, had nothing to offer but an object lesson in conservation. It had been burnt off during the winter. Altho rarer species were seen by certain ones, the highlight of the trip for all our scattered morning groups was the soaring display put on overhead by first an Anhinga and later a Mississippi Kite.——One to two Kites were reported over Overton Park by Scouts from May 6 on. We saw 2 soaring overhead on May 30 but failed to find them June 9 or June 18.——On May 30 we found a male Towhee in Riverside Park. It couldn't be found an hour later nor on subsequent trips. This is a very late date as this species is usually absent after May 8. The Barn Swallows had built a new nest for the fifth successive season at the only nesting location yet found in this area (see *The Migrant*, 1936, p. 69)——Snowy Egrets now nest within 65 miles of Memphis.—BEN B. COFFEY, JR., Memphis.

CORINTH CHAT:—On Apr. 21 in a swampy space of two acres at Waukomis Lake I found ten kinds of warblers,—Redstart, Md. Yellow-throat, Hooded, La. Water-thrush, Worm-eating, Cerulean, Yellow, Palm, Myrtle, Black and White. On a hillside a few yards away was a Pine Warbler. Another bit of evidence to show that birds not of a feather often flock together. The next day at the same hour the same spot was entirely birdless.——All of the Wrens were conspicuous this spring because of their absence. The severe cold of last winter either killed or drove them away. I have seen more Kingbirds the first week in May than I have ever seen before in a whole year's time. Ten flushed from a small tree at roadside; fifty cavorted in a small newly-plowed field near the road; and there have been many others here and there. The usual large numbers of Goldfinches have been found in fields and woods everywhere; but they did not come to our town streets this year as they did last.——My red-letter day of the season was Sunday, May 6. In the plowed field where I saw the Kingbirds, five Scarlet Tanagers fed on worms and grubs that had been turned up by the plow. Nearby was a small wooded creek bottom and the Tanagers played back and forth between the woods and the open field. Nine Orioles appeared in a tall tulip tree at Waukomis early in the morning of Apr. 25. Three were male Baltimores, one a male Orchard, two were females and the balance were immature, or first-year birds. All of them came to the tree in a flock and all left together. Thirty-odd Cedar Waxwings fed beneath a cedar tree at the National Cemetery. The ground there was covered with berries of last year's vintage. Chestnut-sided Warblers unusually plentiful this year, together with Yellows and Blackpolls. On May 6 I prepared a short acticle for *The Migrant* and in it referred to the fact that in fifteen years I have found only two Oven-birds. Very late the next afternoon in Tuscumbia Bottom I found the third one—and instead of wagging his tail in Water-thrush fashion the scamp had his tail pointed upward at angle most jaunty. He came within ten feet of me so that identification was positive.—BENJ. R. WARRINER, Corinth, Miss.

# THE ROUND TABLE

OSPREYS AND RING-BILLED GULLS AT ERWIN FISH HATCHERY:—The wide open fish rearing ponds at the federal fish hatchery at Erwin, Tenn., attract fish-eating birds and occasionally ducks and shorebirds. On May 25, 1939, two gulls were shot at the hatchery. Both appeared to be of the same kind and one had been banded. The superintendent, Mr. G. C. Robertson, showed me a letter from the U.S. Biological Survey, giving the following information. The bird was banded June 27, 1938, on Scarecrow Island, Lake Huron, by C. C. Ludwig, and was a Ring-Billed Gull (band number 648380). The Ring-Billed Gull is given a status of 'rare transient' in East Tennessee (Ganier, Distributional list of the birds of Tennessee, 1933, p. 18). During the month of April, 1940, the spring rains have roiled the Nolichucky and neighboring streams and, apparently, as a consequence, the 'fish-hawks' have given unusual attention to the hatchery ponds. As nearly as the fish hatchery men can recall, twelve have been killed this month, April, 1940. Four were taken in one day. Once an Osprey was shot down as it soared off with a bass in its talons. Four have been turned over to the State College at Johnson City and two of these have been prepared as study skins for the Museum collection. The last one examined by the writer was a male, testes about one centimeter in length.——No nesting in this region is known to the writer. Two Ospreys are under the protection of the game warden at Greeneville Dam and may establish a breeding record for this territory.—CHARLES W. QUAINTANCE, Johnson City.

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MOURNING DOVE NESTING HABITS AT JOHNSON CITY:—The spring season has been unusually cold and wet and very much below normal in respect to temperature. This has delayed the Mourning Dove's nesting. However, we now have some nests near the campus. There are four nests so close together that one can stand at one point and see all of them. Just this morning I saw three male Doves sitting in the same tree, watching over the nests which are located about one hundred feet apart, while the females sat quietly on their little platforms of sticks, which hardly resemble nests at all. The nest is composed of a mere handful of sticks, thrown together in such a way that one would think the beautiful white eggs would fall through.

When incubation begins the doves are very careful not to let the eggs stay uncovered for a minute. They take turns sitting on the nest. I have been observing them very closely for over a week and I have never seen their eggs except when I purposely frightened them away. Early in the morning the male will leave the roost and go in search of food. When he returns, he takes the place of the female and she will go in search of food. Thus, for fourteen days the eggs are never cold.

It it believed by some qualified residents of East Tennessee that the Dove has reached a precarious status. Occasionally appeals are made to have the Biological Survey declare a closed season. Some believe that the Mourning Dove may go the way of the Passenger Pigeon. There is a similarity in the nesting habits. Also like the Passenger Pigeon the Dove stays in flocks which makes it easier to kill them in great numbers.—CLAUDE HUGHES, Johnson City.

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FLICKER-STARLING NESTING RELATIONSHIPS:—On Mar. 28, 1940, a pair of Flickers were observed to be very much interested in a nesting hole about 30 feet above the ground in the side of an oak on the State Teachers' College Campus at Johnson City. On Apr. 6 they were keeping close watch over the prospective home. During approximately four hours of observation that day, they were seen to keep watch by turns, sitting within an inch or two of the hole. A group of Starlings were in the upper branches and nearby trees but were not molesting them. This watching period went on until Apr. 12. On that date the male worked most of the day enlarging the hole. On Apr. 13 a group of 5 Starlings came fussing and quarreling around. The Flickers left without a fight and a pair of Starlings began to carry nesting material into the stolen home site. The Flickers left the campus and went to an apple tree about two hundred yards away. This site did not suit them so they were back on Apr. 17 at the original nesting location. They then chose a place about 18 inches above the old hole and began a new home. This was completed by Apr. 25. During the writer's intermittent observation of approximately 15 hours of the home building, the male appeared to do all the digging. The female was not usually around, but on two occasions she was seen to chase a Starling away —once at 10:00 A.M., Apr. 20 and 1:00 P.M., Apr. 22. The Flickers are now incubating about 18 inches above the family of Starlings. The female peers out every time she returns to the nest-hole but does not come out until she wishes to leave again on a foraging expedition. The Starlings seem to try to steer clear of the new hole. They do not stop any closer to it than is necessary to gain entrance to their nest.—EVERETT LOWE, Johnson City.

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A SCOTT COUNTY HORNED LARK RECORD:—While driving north through Tennessee on April 1, 1940, returning from a three weeks' ornithological tour of Florida, I chanced to discover a group of Prairie Horned Larks (*Otocorus alpestris praticola*) which, to all appearances, were breeding birds. Just past sunrise my driving companion and I stopped the car at a point on U.S. Route 27 just north of Oneida in Scott County, with the purpose of stretching our legs after driving all night. Almost immediately I heard the tinkling songs of Larks, and a short excursion into the plowed field near the road revealed 5 or 6 of them, several of which were singing from elevated points on the ground. They continued to sing for 15 or 20 minutes, and then 2 of them took flight and towered higher and higher finally to disappear, uttering their twittering flight song all the while.—— In view of this behaviour and the late date it seems quite probable that the birds were nesting in the vicinity. The Horned Lark apparently nests sparingly in the vicinity of Louisville and at other points in central and south-eastern Kentucky; however, I am unfamiliar with its status in the mid-Tennessee plateau. Therefore I submit this record, hoping that it may possibly prove of interest.—ROBERT M. MENGEL, Louisville, Ky.

NOTE:—This species is apparently an uncommon summer resident in the state. It has been reported in Houston County and near Nashville (*The Migrant*, 1931, Vol. 2, pp. 30-31) and young birds have been found at Memphis.—EDITOR.

# THE MIGRANT

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**Bruce P. Tyler, Johnson City; Alfred Clebsch, Clarksville.**

*"The simple truth about birds is interesting enough,*
*it is not necessary to go beyond it."*

PLEASE NOTIFY THE SECRETARY OF A CHANGE IN ADDRESS

## YOU CAN HELP

The next issue will be in honor of the Society's twenty-fifth anniversary and we are asking everyone's co-operation in getting it out in ample time before the anniversary meeting at Nashville, October 19-20. Especially in assisting the secretary-treasurer to compile a list of active members. It is human nature to put off but the habit is a stumbling block to your officers voluntarily trying to serve you and the Society. To prevent an interruption in our members' files of *The Migrant* several sets of books have to be kept. Most organizations operate on a calendar year only and most of our dues are in order on January 1. For the convenience of new members a July 1 group has gradually been built-up. If many of these latter could now pay up until January 1, 1942, it would lighten the treasurer's job, giving him one busy season rather than two.

Instead of publishing the customary list of new members in this issue, it has been decided to publish a new and revised list of our entire membership in the Anniversary issue. So we are calling on you now, individually and by Chapters, to bring your list of active members up-to-date so that all can be included on the roll. Please do it now! Compiling and publishing such a list is quite a job and must be done in August if we are to handle other copy later. Please co-operate with a dead-line of August 15 and send all dues now to the treasurer, not to the editor.

Correct addresses are important for printed matter. A March issue was returned to us on June 9 on account of change in address. Others find their way back four to six weeks after mailing. At this writing we have several March copies undeliverable. All the work connected herewith is one thing, but if it is dragged out interminably it crowds into the next project. We desire to spell everyone's name properly. If it is wrong in past lists tell us. That's the only way it can be corrected. In copy received names of members are variously spelled and in editing we refer back to the lists published.

We are indebted to the Northeastern Bird Banding Association, publisher of *Bird-Banding* for the use of the four plates accompanying the review of Prof. Green's article on Swift banding. Prof. Green, a former T.O.S. member, had a large amount of data from his pioneer and extensive banding work. The original article embraces 21 pages.

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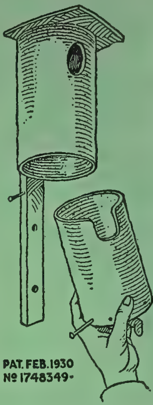

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## CALENDAR—T. O. S. ACTIVITIES

### Fall Field Days and Trips

July 4—Up to you.

Sept. 1-2—Likewise.

Sept. 7-8—Mud Lake (Memphis) shorebird census, depending on water levels. Write.

Oct. 13—Knoxville Chapter, Lake Andrew Jackson.

Oct. 13—Kentucky Orni. Soc., Mammoth Cave Natl. Park.

Oct. 18-20—Twenty-fifth Anniversary, T. O. S. Meeting near Nashville.

Oct. 27—Blue Grass Chapter, Porter farm, Columbia.

Nov. 3—Memphis Chapter, Shelby Forest.

Incidentally the copy basket is practically empty. We regret that several areas were not represented in this issue. Please send all copy as soon as possible and seasonal material by Sept. 1st. We appreciate the cooperation of those who helped make this issue possible.

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THE MIGRANT

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# SUMMER BIRDS OF FALL CREEK STATE PARK

By Albert F. Ganier and Alfred Clebsch

Fall Creek Park is an almost completely forested tract of 15,700 acres, lying upon the Cumberland Plateau about eighty miles southeast of Nashville, Tennessee. It is mainly in the southeastern portion of Van Buren County, the balance being in Bledsoe County, and highway No. 30 passes close to its northern boundary. Physically, the area is rolling and maintains an elevation of between 1700 and 2000 feet above sea level, the latter elevation being attained on Braden's Knob. Into this plateau Caney Creek and its tributaries cut deep, narrow canyons through which the boulder bedded streams run some 600 feet below the rim of sandstone escarpments above.

Three spectacular falls are created where Caney Creek and its two tributaries, Piney Creek and Fall Creek, pitch over the cliffs into the gorge below. The last mentioned has a sheer drop of 256 feet and its setting is unsurpassed in beauty. Above the falls the streams wind about through the uplands where the open hardwood forest is well set with coarse grass and native shrubs. Along these streams, at both low and high levels, one finds hemlock, laurel, and rhododendron. Following these waterways, too, are patches and groves of scrub pine, chiefly on the bluffs, while a few short-leaved pines also occur and on Meadow Creek, even the stately white pine was found. The flora of the region is highly diversified but cannot be covered here due to lack of space.

Following a custom of several years past—that of making a survey of the summer birds of one of Tennessee's mountain areas—a group of members of the Tennessee Ornithological Society* spent eight days in this park, covering the period of June 15 to 23, 1940. Through the courtesy of Mr. Horace Roberts, Project Manager of improvements now under way, we had comfortable quarters in one of the rustic cabin units in the heart of the area. From this center we were able to go in our autos to nearly all parts of the park. Where the roads ended, we struck out afoot and reached our objectives using map and compass. Mid-day lunches were carried in our packs so that we could spend each entire day afield. In this way we covered all types of habitat represented—many of the old clearings where cabins had stood, and such interesting spots as the valleys of Piney, Fall, Meadow, Caney, and Indian Camp Creeks, Knewton Ford, Rock Quarry Ridge, Steakly Bend, and

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*The members of our party were as follows: Alfred and Mrs. Clebsch, Clarence Collier, Cynthia C. Counce, George Davis, Albert F. Ganier, Frelan Goddard, Amelia Laskey (for 2 days), Mabel Slack, Evelyn J. Schneider, William M. Walker, and William Yambert.

Yellow Bluff. The last mentioned point is of great interest in that it is a massive sandstone cliff, more than 200 feet sheer and jutting out of the southeast escarpment of Caney Creek canyon. Here was the Golden Eagle's eyrie some years back, and here is the present eyrie of a pair of Peregrine Falcons and of Great Horned Owls, while Red-tailed Hawks and Turkey Vultures also make the place their headquarters.

With the moving out of the mountaineers and their ever ready squirrel rifles, and with the prohibition of hunting, we may expect the larger birds to hold their own. A number of wild turkeys have been added to the thinned-out local stock and these may become abundant as of yore. The Raven formerly inhabited the park and Lawson Fisher, an old settler at the falls, pointed out to the senior author some fifteen years ago, an old nest in a pothole of a cliff that this species had used in earlier years. But Ravens have long since disappeared from the Cumberland Plateau and it is not probable that they will ever return. Birdlife seemed a bit more numerous about the cabin than elsewhere and song and call notes, heard sporadically thru the night, became more vociferous as dawn approached.

During our tramps we set down on listing cards the birds as we found them all thru the day and each evening after supper we tabulated and discussed the day's finds. On the last day we sat together and compiled our composite list of 74 species. As usual in this type of country we found no species which we considered abundant. In order of their relative abundance we have recorded them in this list as "common, fairly common, uncommon, or rare." The fourteen species which we rated as common and the number of each recorded during our stay, are as follows: Red-eyed Vireo, 58; Indigo Bunting, 56; Hooded Warbler, 55; Field Sparrow, 48; Wood Thrush, 44; Prairie Warbler, 44; Oven-bird, 41; Tufted Titmouse, 39; Blue Jay, 37; Yellow-breasted Chat, 33; Scarlet Tanager, 31; Red-eyed Towhee, 31; Crested Flycatcher, 30; and Black and White Warbler, 30.

The following five species were not recorded but may fly in and out from nearby farming districts: Bronzed Grackle, Red-wing, Barn Swallow, Rough-winged Swallow, Prairie Horned Lark, and Mockingbird. Sixteen additional species, not seen by us, are possible summer residents in the Park. They are: E. Green Heron, Wood Duck, Sparrow Hawk, Osprey, Spotted Sandpiper, Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Acadian Flycatcher, Cedar Waxwing, Starling, E. Warbling Vireo, Worm-eating Warbler, E. Yellow Warbler, American Redstart, Baltimore Oriole, Cowbird, and Grasshopper Sparrow. A few species —those that prefer the habitats of man—may be expected to become scarcer. Among them are the Wrens, Brown Thrasher, Catbird, Meadowlark, and Mourning Dove. We gave considerable time to gathering nesting data and during our stay we found one or more nests for each of twenty-five species.

To assist in determining subspecies, skins were prepared of fifteen birds. As further assistance in determining the proper subspecies to assign to this area, Dr. Alexander Wetmore's paper, 'Notes on the Birds of Tennessee' (1939), was found useful and has been followed as far as practicable.* In the case of several species we are not entirely certain of the form as listed.

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*NOTE—Dr. Wetmore's paper (reviewed in **The Migrant.** March, 1940, pp. 29-31) is evidently authority for several of the scientific and subspecific names used herein which differ from those of the A. O. U. 1931 Check-List.—EDITOR.

We acknowledge our indebtedness to each of the other members of our party for their careful work and co-operation without which this list would have been not nearly so complete.

EASTERN TURKEY VULTURE, *Cathartes aura septentrionalis*: (10 listed).—A picturesque addition to the canyon landscape where one or more were continuously in sight. A protected ledge on Yellow Bluff was headquarters for the flock and some probably nested in its recesses.

BLACK VULTURE, *Coragyps a. atratus*: (2).—A pair were to be seen in the canyon below the falls, among the other vultures.

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK, *Accipiter striatus velox*: (1).—An elusive species and best sought by searching patches of pine woods for its nest. One of these was found on June 21 in a pine grove on Fall Creek. The nest was built 40 feet up and contained five eggs well advanced in incubation. Under a tree 100 feet away were the tail, wings, and feet of a freshly killed female Scarlet Tanager. Another nest was found in a pine grove on Meadow Creek; it was an empty last year's nest.

COOPER'S HAWK, *Accipiter cooperi*: (3).—Another elusive species but seen in flight at three locations.

EASTERN RED-TAILED HAWK, *Buteo jamaicensis borealis*: (3).—A pair made headquarters in Caney Creek canyon in the vicinity of Yellow Bluff and on this visit as well as in previous years, were to be seen soaring about. They were believed to have been occupying one of the stick nests on a ledge of the cliff. Another Red-tail was seen near Piney falls.

NORTHERN RED-SHOULDERED HAWK, *Buteo l. lineatus*: (4).—To those of us who had elsewhere found this species only in river bottoms, its occurrence here in this highland area was somewhat surprising. Seen at three locations.

BROAD-WINGED HAWK, *Buteo p. platypterus*: (5).—Uncommon but apparently the most numerous of the hawks. Recorded at four different locations.

GOLDEN EAGLE, *Aquila chrysaetos canadensis*.—This rare species was not recorded on this trip and is probably no longer a summer resident in or near the Park but it has been observed there in earlier years by Ganier and a pair built their nest, which may still be seen, on a protected ledge of Yellow Bluff. Another old nest was found by Ganier in 1935, similarly located in a remote canyon a few miles northward. Natives who lived near the nests, told him in earlier years, of frequent losses of small pigs, lambs, and poultry to these eagles and Lawson Fisher showed the senior author the foot of one he had shot over his place at Caney falls.

DUCK HAWK, *Falco peregrinus anatum*: (2).—A pair of these splendid falcons make their home in the high Yellow Bluff escarpment and were observed by our party on the two days we visited this location. The birds were carrying prey in their talons and were flying swiftly and directly toward their eyrie although at this date young Peregrines should be a-wing. In *The Migrant* for 1939, page 29, record is made of young having been seen in this eyrie on June 13, 1938, by G. R. Mayfield and H. C. Monk.

EASTERN BOB-WHITE, *Colinus v. virginianus*: (15).—Fairly common, chiefly in the open woods. Here the long grass and shrubs afforded good protection.

EASTERN TURKEY, *Meleagris gallopavo silvestris*: (2).—One was heard near Yellow Bluff and a nest with 11 eggs was found by Collier a half mile northwest of Piney falls. This nest was situated in rather open woods and was tucked under the edge of some low second-growth. The female was sitting, nearly hidden from view behind the leaves, and flushed, flying some distance and rising about 12 feet in her flight. Wild turkeys are reputed to desert their nests quite readily but here, perhaps because the eggs were slick from advanced incubation, the hen was found to have returned a little later. Turkeys, according to the natives, were formerly fairly common in this section and have never been entirely wiped out. The State 'planted' a number of additional birds in the Park a year or two ago.

AMERICAN WOODCOCK, *Philohela minor*: (1).—One was flushed in a marshy area along a little brook that ran into Piney Falls gulf. Park Ranger Myers stated that he had recently seen a young one just learning to fly. There are many suitable habitats for these birds in the Park.

EASTERN MOURNING DOVE, *Zenaidura macroura carolinensis*: (8).— Rare, perhaps due to the lack of cultivated fields and the presence of certain birds of prey.

YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO, *Coccyzus a. americanus*: (26).—Fairly common and well distributed thruout the Park. Some of those listed were seen at a distance and may have been the Black-billed species. On June 21 a parent was found brooding three young about four days old, near Piney Falls. The nest was on the horizontal limb of a pine by a stream and 7 feet above the ground. The next day, another nest was found, containing two eggs. It was on the vine-covered limb of a persimmon tree, 9 feet up.

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO, *Coccyzus erythropthalmus*: (3).—Apparently rare, only three being certainly identified. On June 19 a nest was found in the woods on Yellow Bluff and the sitting bird was carefully examined. The nest, built 6 feet up in a small pine, held two eggs incubated about one week. The nest was loosely built of sticks and lined with soft materials.

SOUTHERN SCREECH OWL, *Otus asio asio*.—Apparently rare. None were seen or heard by our party but one was recorded here in June, 1938, by G. R. Mayfield and H. C. Monk.

GREAT HORNED OWL, *Bubo v. virginianus*.—None were seen on the present trip but Ganier has flushed them from the cliffs on several previous visits. This species is practically silent during June and for some time later.

NORTHERN BARRED OWL, *Strix v. varia*: (2).—Two males were heard calling along Caney Creek, near the dam above our cabins.

EASTERN WHIP-POOR-WILL, *Antrostomus v. vociferus*: (7).—Its calls heard nightly about the cabin area, indicated it to be fairly common.

EASTERN NIGHTHAWK, *Chordeiles m. minor*: (3).—Rare in this wooded area.

CHIMNEY SWIFT, *Chaetura pelagica*: (13).—Uncommon and presumably a visitor from settled areas outside the Park.

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD, *Archilochus colubris*: (8).—Seemingly rare, for with our groups constantly afield we averaged but one a day.

EASTERN BELTED KINGFISHER, *Megaceryle a. alcyon*: (1).—The only one noted was on Caney Creek above the falls and near the dam. No suitable clay banks for nesting were to be seen along the stream.

NORTHERN FLICKER, *Colaptes auratus luteus*: (14).—Fairly common. Considering the immense area of apparently suitable habitat, one would expect the woodpecker family to be numerous but this was not found to be true here nor elsewhere on this plateau area.

SOUTHERN PILEATED WOODPECKER, *Ceophloeus p. pileatus*: (7).—Uncommon. This largest of the woodpeckers was however, observed at five points.

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER, *Centurus carolinus*: (9).—Fairly common. A pair were feeding young in a nest in a dead tree near our cabins.

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER, *Melanerpes e. erythrocephalus*: (3).—Rare. This species prefers 'newground' and farming districts during the summer.

HAIRY WOODPECKER, *Dryobates villosus*, subspecies: (8).—Uncommon but well distributed. As with the next species, there is question as to whether the northern or the southern form is the resident bird.

DOWNY WOODPECKER, *Dryobates pubescens*, subspecies: (11).—Fairly common thruout the area but rather quiet at the time of our first visit. See above.

EASTERN KINGBIRD, *Tyrannus tryannus*: (4).—A pair was established at the cabin area and two more were seen not far distant. We were surprised to find them in these heavily wooded areas as well as to find them absent in old clearings with apple orchards.

NORTHERN CRESTED FLYCATCHER, *Myiarchus crinitus boreus*: (30).—Common; seen and more often heard in the open woodlands.

EASTERN PHOEBE, *Sayornis phoebe*: (9).—Noted along the streams where cliffs afforded nesting sites. Wherever a small waterfall pours over a cliff, one may confidently look for a pair.

EASTERN WOOD PEWEE, *Myiochanes virens*: (8).—Uncommon; our group averaged but one a day. Spends the time on a dead limb waiting for passing insects.

PURPLE MARTIN, *Progne s. subis*: (2).—A visitor in the Park area from some of the nearby farms where nest boxes are provided.

FLORIDA BLUE JAY, *Cyanocitta cristata florincola*: (37).—A common and well distributed species. A nest on June 17, 12 feet up in a cedar in an old field, held four eggs incubated one week. On June 21, another nest with young.

EASTERN CROW, *Corvus b. brachyrhynchos*: (9).—Uncommon, probably scarcer than formerly. A nest with addled eggs, in a pine on Meadow Creek.

CAROLINA CHICKADEE, *Penthestes c. carolinensis*: (23).—Fairly common. At this season found usually in family groups wandering thru the woods.

TUFTED TITMOUSE, *Baeolophus bicolor*: (39).—Common everywhere.

WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH, *Sitta carolinenis*, subspecies: (12).—Uncommon here as elsewhere in Tennessee. Seen chiefly in open woods.

BEWICK'S WREN, *Thryomanes b. bewicki*: (3).—Rare, due in part to the fact that farm houses have been removed from the Park area. A nest with seven eggs was found in the entrance shelter on June 15.

CAROLINA WREN, *Thryothorus l. ludovicianus*: (11).—Uncommon. A nest found near the cabins on June 20 held seven young.

CATBIRD, *Dumetella carolinensis*: (11).—Uncommon. Found chiefly about old clearings. A nest with one fresh egg was found June 20.

EASTERN BROWN THRASHER, *Toxostoma, r. rufum*: (15).—Uncommon, and like the former, about old clearings. Several nests were found in young pines.

SOUTHERN ROBIN, *Turdus migratorius achrusterus*: (11).—Uncommon but conspicuous in flight and by song. A nest was found on June 15.

WOOD THRUSH, *Hylocichla mustelina*: (44).—A common species and well distributed, singing early and late. Half a dozen nests were found.

EASTERN BLUEBIRD, *Sialia s. sialis*: (15).—Uncommon, found in open woods and clearings. A nest with young, in a hollow apple tree, June 17.

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER, *Polioptila c. caerulea*: (9).—Uncommon; this diminutive sprite was found feeding chiefly among the high oak branches.

WHITE-EYED VIREO, *Vireo g. griseus*: (8).—Uncommon. Those observed were frequenting the second growth, generally near the streams.

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO, *Vireo flavifrons*: (7). — Uncommon. Located chiefly by their 'screechy' song. Two of their ornate nests were found, both empty.

RED-EYED VIREO, *Vireo olivaceus*: (58).—Common. Thanks to its persistent song this was the most often recorded bird.

BLACK AND WHITE WARBLER, *Mniotilta varia*: (30).—Common throughout.

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER, *Vermivora chrysoptera*: (4).—Among our best finds were two pairs of these rare warblers. One pair was located at a damp swale within the cabin area and the other at the spring just west of it.

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER, *Vermivora pinus*: (8).—Uncommon but there are perhaps more of them than our list would indicate. A nest containing four fresh eggs in a grown-up road was found on June 19. It was built on the ground at the foot of a briar among weeds and grass.

NORTHERN PARULA WARBLER, *Compsothlypis americana pusilla*: (16).—Fairly common in its preferred habitat, which was along the streams where hemlock and cedars were draped with usnea moss wherein it nests.

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER, *Dendroica v. virens*: (18).—Fairly common, keeping chiefly to the hemlocks which grow along the streams.

CERULEAN WARBLER, *Dendroica cerulea*: (6).—Rare. Keeps to the upper branches of the hardwoods, and is rather difficult to locate.

SYCAMORE WARBLER, *Dendroica dominica albilora*: (7).—Uncommon but generally distributed. A few were found in pine groves but for the most part they occurred in the oak-forest areas since their favorite tree—the sycamore—was not growing here. Some difference was noted in the song of certain individuals from those about Nashville and two, of three specimens collected, had yellow in the lores which is a characteristic of the eastern form, the Yellow-throated Warbler. These and a number of middle Tennessee specimens were sent to Dr. Alexander Wetmore for determination and were referred by him to the westerly form, *D. d. albilora*.

NORTHERN PINE WARBLER, *Dendroica p. pinus*: (10).—True to their name one or two pairs were to be found in every clump of tall pines.

NORTHERN PRAIRIE WARBLER, *Dendroica d. discolor*: (44).—Common throughout the Park. A nest found June 20, 2 feet up in a blueberry bush, held four fresh eggs. A half dozen empty nests were found, placed in laurel, blueberry and huckleberry bushes.

OVEN-BIRD, *Seiurus aurocapillus*: (41).—Common, especially in the thicker woods. A parent feeding young was noted on June 19.

LOUISIANA WATER-THRUSH, *Seiurus motacilla*: (7).—Found at intervals along all the streams.

KENTUCKY WARBLER, *Oporornis formosus*: (22).—Fairly common in woods.

NORTHERN YELLOW-THROAT, *Geothlypis trichas brachidactyla*: (10) .—Rare; found about the edges of old clearings, among the brambles.

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT, *Icteria v. virens*: (33).—Common, found chiefly about old clearings and abandoned farmsteads. Three nests contained eggs.

HOODED WARBLER, *Wilsonia citrina*: (55).—Common; found mostly in thick woods and in laurel. A nest found June 19 held four fresh eggs; another on June 21, contained one egg. Both built about 2 feet up and in woods.

ENGLISH SPARROW, *Passer d. domesticus*: (6).—Three pair at Service Camp.

SOUTHERN MEADOWLARK, *Sturnella magna argutula*: (6).—Found at but one location—in the large clearing west of Caney Falls.

ORCHARD ORIOLE, *Icterus spurius*: (1).—Rare; one near our cabins.

SCARLET TANAGER, *Piranga erythromelas*: (31).—Common. Its song was in evidence all thru the day and its brilliant plumage made it conspicuous among the trees. It often mounts a tall tree at dusk to sing.

SUMMER TANAGER, *Piranga r. rubra*: (20).—Fairly common thruout the Park.

EASTERN CARDINAL, *Richmondena c. cardinalis*: (11).—Uncommon. They were found as a rule in the woods among the second-growth.

INDIGO BUNTING, *Passerina cyanea*: (56).—Common and uniformly distributed. Four nests were found, with eggs or young, June 19 to 22.

EASTERN GOLDFINCH, *Spinus t. tristis*: (8).—Rare. A group of six and two singles were seen bathing at the water's edge.

RED-EYED TOWHEE, *Pipilo e. erythropthalmus*: (31).—Common in open woods and about old clearings. A nest on June 19 held three fresh eggs.

BACHMAN'S SPARROW, *Aimophila aestivalis bachmani*: (11).—Uncommon but well distributed. Pairs found about the cabin area, in open woods and in an abandoned apple orchard.

EASTERN CHIPPING SPARROW, *Spizella p. passerina*: (11).—Uncommon and will probably become more so as the clearings grow up. One nest held eggs.

EASTERN FIELD SPARROW, *Spizella p. pusilla*: (48).—Common, in all clearings as well as in open woods. Six nests were found, containing eggs or young and built usually among briars or in small bushes.

NASHVILLE AND CLARKSVILLE, TENNESSEE. September 15, 1940.

# AUDUBON IN TENNESSEE

BY WILLIAM H. DEADERICK

It cannot be stated definitely how many times John James Audubon was in the state of Tennessee. There are, however, in his writings, recordings of several visits.

The first was at about Christmas time in 1810 when he and Rozier were on their way with a stock of merchandise to St. Genevieve, Missouri. On account of ice in the Mississippi River they remained at the mouth of Cash Creek, near the mouth of the Ohio. From here, according to his statement, he made a trip to Swan Lake in Tennessee in company with a band of Indians to obtain swan skins, fifty of which were secured. As Audubon's geography was not always accurate it is possible that this lake was not located in the state of Tennessee.

In 1811 he visited Philadelphia making a roundabout trip in order to see new country and new birds. From Henderson, Kentucky he traveled through

Russelville, Nashville and Knoxville, Abington, Virginia, the Natural Bridge, Harrisonburg, Winchester, Harper's Ferry, Frederick and Lancaster. He says that he made the return journey by a more direct route in company with Vincent Nolte.

Audubon made seven trips on the Mississippi River passing Tennessee—three round trips and a one-way journey, as follows:

1. Left Henderson, Kentucky in a skiff late in April or early in May, 1819, for New Orleans. Returned on the steamer Paragon during June, 1819.
2. Left Cincinnati on a flatboat October 12, 1820, arrived New Orleans January 7, 1821. Left Bayou Sara on steamer Magnet, arrived at Louisville October 25, 1823.
3. Left Louisville late in November, 1824, on a steamboat for Bayou Sara. Sailed from New Orleans to England May 19, 1826.
4. Left Louisville early in October, 1829, by steamer for Bayou Sara. Left New Orleans Jan. 7, 1830, by steamer 'Philadelphia' for Louisville.

There remain ornithological records of only one of these voyages, the flatboat trip of 1820, when he left Cincinnati at 4:30 p.m., October 12, on one of the two flatboats making the journey. The party left New Madrid, Missouri, at daybreak, November 22, 1820, passed the Kentucky-Tennessee line that afternoon or the next morning, and crossed the Tennessee-Mississippi line sometime during December 2, 1820.

The following brief extracts from his Journal (1) give some ideas of his bird and other observations while in Tennessee waters.

Nov. 23. Saw many Robins and Rusty Blackbirds. Killed a beautiful male Bald Eagle. Saw two eagle's nests. Landed opposite Island No. 20.

Nov. 24. Killed a deer. Saw two Ivory-billed Woodpeckers. Met a family of three people, a woman and two men, in two skiffs, who were from the mouth of the Cumberland. They were too lazy to make themselves comfortable and lay on the damp earth and ate raccoon washed down with muddy water.

Nov. 25. Remained still on account of a strong head wind. The woman in the skiff washed for them.

Nov. 26. The woman in the skiff mended his good brown breeches.

Nov. 27. Finished the drawing of the Bald Eagle after four days work. Landed at Flour Island, No. 33, opposite the First Chickasaw Bluff, just north of the present town of Fulton, near Fort Pillow.

Nov. 28. Took the opportunity of a rainy day to write his family history for the benefit of his sons. (For comments on the two lines blotted out see *The Auk*, vol. 54, p. 480.)

Nov. 29. Passed the Second Chickasaw Bluff which he considered much more interesting than the 'Chalk Banks. This bluff is in the vicinity of Randolph Towhead, just above the present town of Richardson. "They are from 150 to 200 feet high, irregularly caving down and variegated in stratas of red, yellow, black and deep lead colors, the whole of such soaps and washing nature as to give an interesting contrast by the dashing of the wash down to the edge of the water which here is very deep. The upper strata (the whole run horizontal) is perforated with thousands of holes, the nests of the bank swallows. These bluffs are about two and a half miles long, the country back, barren and poor." Landed at the foot of Island No. 35, a few miles above what the navigators called "the Devil's Raceground," opposite the present site of Wilson, Arkansas.

Nov. 30. "Went some 25 miles and landed a little below the Twelve Outlets, past the Third Chickasaw Bluff. The view of this was intercepted by our running on the right of an island." The Third Chickasaw Bluff is in the vicinity of the Shelby-Tipton County line. Saw a Swan and large flocks of Sandhill Cranes.

Dec. 1. "I went ashore about five miles above Wolf River in a sharp running bend. Saw two beautiful trees, the Pride of China, there the high land is within two miles of the river and the spot on which the plantation stands never overflows any. These are remarkable spots. We landed immediately at the foot of old Fort Pickering. We walked up to it through a very narrow crooked path and found it in a very decayed situation. The position is beautiful and the land rich about it and we are told the Spaniards own it. It was an agreeable spot to live in. About two miles above this the mouth of Wolf River comes in from the east and is the landing place of a town called Memphis. Have runned 24 miles. Saw Towhee Buntings and many sparrows. At the water edge there is a bed of coal running horizontally about two feet above the surface. This and the eligibility of the situation may become valuable."

Nuttall (2) who visited this locality January 4, 1819, describes this deposit as follows: "The strata here again similar to those of the second bluffs, even the seam of pink clay occurs and near the level of the river we likewise perceive the lignite in a bed of about six feet thickness, but not probably continuous. Along the shore we saw masses which looked precisely like burnt logs, but all this coal at length blazes in the fire and gives out as usual a smoke partaking of the odor of coal and turf."

Audubon continues; "Saw this afternoon two eagles cohabiting. The female was on a very high limb of a tree, squatted at the approach of the male who came like a torrent, alighting on her and quackled shrill until he sailed off, the female following him and zigzagging herself through the air."

Dec. 2. "Woods literally filled with many paroquets." Landed on a towhead a little above Island No. 51, below the Tennessee-Mississippi line.

A complete bird list compiled from his journal during the period Nov. 23—Dec. 1, inclusive, follows:

Robin, Nov. 23.
Rusty Blackbird, Nov. 23.
Slate-colored Junco, Nov. 23.
Bald Eagle, Nov. 23, 27, 29, Dec. 1.
Canada (?) Goose, Nov. 23, 24, 25, 26, 28, Dec. 1.
Carrion Crow, Nov. 24, 25.
Turkey Vulture, Nov. 24.
Ivory-billed Woodpecker, Nov. 24, 29.
Trumpeter Swan, Nov. 26, 30.
Great Blue Heron, Nov. 28.
Cardinal, Nov. 28, 29.
Carolina Wren, Nov. 28.
Purple Finch, Nov. 28, Dec. 1.
Goldfinch, Nov. 29.
Blue Jay, Nov. 29.
Green-winged Teal, Nov. 30.
Sandhill Crane, Nov. 30.
Paroquet, Nov. 30.
Swamp Sparrow, Nov. 30.
Pintail, Nov. 30.
Cedar Waxwing, Nov. 30.
Crow, Nov. 30.
Merganser, Dec. 1.
Grackle, Dec. 1.
Broad-winged Hawk, Dec. 1.
Red-shouldered Hawk, Dec. 1.
Towhee, Dec. 1.

In addition he saw an eagle with a white head and brown tail, Nov. 26, and large flocks of white gulls, Nov. 27.

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HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS, August 15, 1940.

# AUGUST—THE SILENT MONTH FOR BIRD SONGS

By George R. Mayfield

For nine summers during the period 1929-1940, the writer kept notes on the volume of bird song from sixty species which nest near his summer home, 'Birds-I-View.' The tabulation of all these notes which cover the annual season of song from May 15 to September 15 will be reserved for a later and longer article. It is the "doldrums" period of singing covering most of August, which will be treated here and which will doubtless prove of interest to bird lovers generally. The article is written with the hope that others will make additional notes in their own localities to compare with these records.

In late July and in early August comes the moulting period and consequently the volume of bird song is reduced almost to zero. A great silence falls upon field and forest and birds seem to vanish almost completely from their summer homes. Only in the early morning and after showers do the songsters come back to life and reveal their presence in songs and calls. The question naturally arises as to where the numerous birds keep themselves during the three or four weeks of the moulting season. The answer may often be found when an observer approaches a shady retreat in some quiet cove, or perhaps a thicket in which water and food are found in abundance. The spot seems alive with birds.

Two other factors may be mentioned here as playing a role in this silent period. In the first place, the birds need rest after the strenuous activities of the nesting period. The strain on father and mother bird during the summer months is heavy, and the silence and seclusion give the birds a chance to recover from the toil of spring and summer. In addition to this fact, many species are getting ready for migration to their winter homes, and before undertaking this long journey, they rest and feed until they have sufficient strength to begin their trek to the South.

Perhaps the most satisfactory way of treating this topic is to take up the birds by families and species. And the *MIMIDAE* family deserves first place since they lead all other species for variety and abundance of notes. Included in this family are the Mockingbird, the Brown Thrasher, the Catbird, and the Wrens.

The Mockingbirds begin their spring song about March 1st and sing constantly, sometimes night as well as day, until near the first week of August when they lapse into a deep silence. One sees them sitting dejectedly on a bush or flying aimlessly along the highways and hedges. They resume song the first week in September, as a rule. The Brown Thrasher ceases to sing soon after the first of June, but can be heard ofttimes irregularly until early July. Then he hides in dense shrubbery or else runs along the ground half hopping, half flying, but always silent, except for intermittent cat-like scolds. The Catbird sings on until August 1st, but turns his melody into scolds and cat-calls early in this month. From all three species tactful observers are sometimes treated during August to a concert of low melodies, reminiscent or prophetic, which thrill the heart with surprise and delight. Only the elect few enjoy this rare privilege. It is this contrast between the rapture of mid-May and the silence of mid-August which impresses all lovers of bird song.

The Bewick's Wrens join the silent throng about August 10 but the Carolina Wrens never cease to sing their jubilant lays. Of all species of birds the Carolina Wrens observe "retreat" least, and for that reason their presence is always welcome around the house and in the open spaces.

Next to the *MIMIDAE* comes the *TURDIDAE* or Thrush family, comprising in most of Tennessee the Bluebird, the Robin, and the Wood Thrush. This family includes in its world-wide habitats, the sweetest singers of the Avian World, whether in the Western Hemisphere or Eastern Hemisphere and the South is fortunate in having the three species mentioned above. It is true that they lack the brilliancy and the variety of the *MIMIDAE*, but connoisseurs of bird music everywhere bestow the palm of melody upon them for sweetness and charm.

The Bluebird calls and sings until June, but July and August increases the sadness of his note if heard at all. The Robin weans his second or third brood in late July and then his monotonous, though lively notes, give way to chirps and calls. Sweetest singer of our southern birds is the Wood Thrush, but his chattering and scolding after August 10th would never suggest the silvery, soulful songs of May and June. When once the Wood Thrush stops he never resumes singing until mid-April of the next year. Returning from France in late August, 1919, the writer sought out many Wood Thrushes and challenged them with his own imitations, but his eager yearning to hear one sweet note, was rewarded by silence or a fretful scold.

Next to the *TURDIDAE* comes the *FRINGILLIDAE* or Sparrow family. The Bachman Sparrow, sweetest and shyest of our summer Sparrows, sings on until mid-August, or even until the last of the month. Early in the morning, midst the noon-day heat and in late afternoons, he furnishes a blessed exception to those singers which insist on favorable weather conditions. The Field Sparrow, too, sings until near the first of September, not so loud nor so sweet in his trills as the Bachman Sparrow, but a welcome relief to the quiet of grassy fields and bushy hedges. As for the Chipping Sparrow, no enthusiast can claim sweetness for his constant twittering, but his cheery and continuous singing is ofttimes the only bird note heard around the house during mid-August.

The Towhee sings far into August. True, his song is then a sort of hurried, jerky introduction with a hasty trill as compared with the sweet vibrant notes of early spring, but the hearer delights in this song just the same. The Indigo Buntings change from a constant exultant warble throughout the day to a song which becomes less and less continuous and about August 20, brilliancy of color and song give way to drab effects and a chirp is all that is left to betray the presence of the hidden Bunting until October chill drives him to a warmer climate of South America. The Goldfinches nest in late July and their sweet twitterings continue until late August, but with less frequency than in July. About the first of September both color and song will disappear, and only the flight song, "per-chic-o-ree" will be heard from them throughout the winter months.

The Tufted Titmouse and the Carolina Chickadee are among our most vivacious singers. Even during the dull gray days of winter they often light up the landscape with bright music. But August is hard on them, too. Only chicks and scolds are heard from them until the migration season begins.

Then they lead these wanderers with renewed songs and calls. The Summer Tanager will be cited here as singing until mid-August and I have heard a succession of merry notes from these birds as late as the first week in September.

Three of the Vireos, the Red-eyed, the White-eyed and the Yellow-throated, deserve special mention for their eternal singing up till mid-August. Thereafter they are rather silent most of the day until the moulting season is over. The Warbling Vireo does not sing around Camp 'Birds-I-View,' but my observation in other localities shows that this species stops singing in mid-July. It might be added here that some White-eyed Vireos, like the Carolina Wrens, continue their jitter bug calls throughout the moulting period.

The Warbler family has many and varied singers, despite the fact that bird students generally find them more or less monotonous in their music. That clown of the bird world, the Chat, keeps hidden and silent during most of August in those places where once he ruled the air with countless whistles, croaks, squawks, cat-calls and other notes. About August 10, the Maryland Yellow-throat ceases his 'witchery' notes and relapses into silence, except for the chips which betray his presence in the shrubbery until mid-October. The Black and White Warbler, the Yellow Warbler, the Prairie Warbler, and the Cerulean Warbler stop singing before the first of August and only rarely does a lone bar of music reveal the fact that some of these birds are still with us. The Kentucky Warbler, the Hooded Warbler, and perhaps one or two other species will be heard in August, but their songs are quite limited in comparison with earlier times.

Of the Flycatcher family the mournful Wood Pewee and the tiresome Phoebe, the spastic, sneezy "itch-oo" of the Acadian Flycatcher, and the jerky song of the Kingbird are rarely heard from the haunts which they made vocal with their calls and songs before mid-August. Only the Crested Flycatcher wakes the echoes with a simulated song as he accompanies a late brood, hungry and scolding, in the search for juicy morsels.

Woodpeckers are almost all silent, except for tattoos on the trees where they are feeding. The Redhead is an apparent exception and his whirring notes may be heard generally until the first of September. Even the Flicker keeps quiet during most of August.

Jays are notoriously strident, but in early August they grow quiet in preparation for a noisy month in September, as most of them move southward through the oaks and hickories. Grackles have stopped wheezing their love notes by late July and their discordant feeding calls start again in late August. Red-wings, Cowbirds and Crows call to each other, but not so often, except in the early morning or at roosting time. The Baltimore Oriole stops singing about the first of July and he is rarely seen after this date. The Orchard Oriole may be heard until mid-July and grows strangely silent along the roadsides where his lively notes were heard earlier throughout the day. Even the cheery Meadowlark seems to disappear from the field until one rises with a ragged silent flight to seek shelter again in the dense grass.

The Cuckoo is a late singer, or shall we say "caller." They are often heard until the first of September. Doves, too, nest late, even till the last week of August, and their plaintive cooing is a prophetic dirge for the brood which will probably be shot before they are able to fly with ease. The Bob-whites also call until the first week in August and from time to time after that they may be heard as they assemble their scattered flock for evening vespers. Nighthawks wheel in silent flight as they feed over green pastures. The Swallows, too, by this time have mostly assembled at their rendezvous and flown to their winter homes.

These notes from a daily record at 'Birds-I-View' convey the idea in this article perhaps better than mere words and statistics. "August 28, 1940. Awoke this morning at 5:10. Silence, impressive and depressive. Not a bird song heard for the first 20 minutes, only the cawing of Crows, the scolding of the White-eye, the teasing of young Cardinals, the chatter of the Summer Tanager and the plaint of the Field Sparrow with a Crested Flycatcher drawling in the early morn as the hungry young call for their food." For the bird lover, this is the season which Longfellow describes in these words:

"The melancholy days have come,
The saddest of the year."

The first week in September brings a break to this dreaded monotony. Many species form in flocks for companionship, for protection, and for migration. Such groups can be detected from afar by the many calls and song snatches that come from the various numbers of these flocks. The migrants return from the North at this time to add zest and joy to bird study. Broken notes from these visitors, either single or in flocks, are welcome sounds after the dullness of August days. Permanent residents and summer residents begin singing again to some extent. The Mockingbird especially is heard with its fall song and the world takes on more good cheer because the birds are happy again.

NASHVILLE, September, 1940.

Robert Adam Wilson, a member of the Tennessee Ornithological Society since October 22, 1917, died at his home in Nashville on July 31, 1940. According to the *Nashville Banner*, Mr. Wilson had reached his 89th year on July 8, 1940. For more than 25 years, and until recently, Mr. Wilson had conducted the *Fin, Fur and Feathers* column in *The Banner* and was a crusader for conservation and for the removal of the State Department of Fish and Game from the political pressure under which it labored so long. He was highly appreciative of birds and all nature, a charming writer and a staunch supporter of the T.O.S.—A. F. Ganier.

# INTERESTING MISSISSIPPI BIRDS

BY M. G. VAIDEN

This article is the third one in the series published heretofore in *The Migrant*. Whenever an asterisk (*) appears the skins are in the collection of Dr. Louis B. Bishop of Pasadena, California, and identifications have been made by him. Initials appear at the end of each paragraph wherever identifications have been made by Dr. Pierce Brodkorb, of the University of Michigan, Museum of Zoology staff, Ann Arbor, Michigan. Some specimens have been identified by the writer and his initials are used in such cases. Dr. Alexander Wetmore, U.S. National Museum, Washington, D.C., has kindly identified for me one specimen of this list. To Dr. Wetmore, Dr. Brodkorb, and to Dr. L. B. Bishop, I am grateful for their continued assistance.

Additional species and forms are on hand for identification at this time and publication will follow at an early date.

NORTHERN RED-SHOULDERED HAWK, *Buteo lineatus lineatus*.—Two females taken December 12, 1938, nine miles south of Rosedale, and November 15, 1939, near Moorhead, respectively, were identified by Dr. Pierce Brodkorb as *lineatus* with this notation: "The Red-shouldered Hawks are clearly intergrades between the northern and southern forms."

BROAD-WINGED HAWK, *Buteo platypterus platypterus*.—Usually seen occasionally during spring and fall migration this species was an abundant migrant here between August 15 and September 7, 1940, when four specimens were taken. A female taken August 27, 1940, one mile west of Rosedale, is a bird in beautiful plumage. (M.G.V.)

STILT SANDPIPER, *Micropalama himantopus*.—Two specimens were taken on August 29, 1940, six miles south of Rosedale. These birds were feeding with a flock of similar species. All were feeding in a very narrow and shallow barrow-pit (*The Oologist*, Vol. 56, March, 1939, pages 34-35) (M.G.V.)

WESTERN SANDPIPER, *Ereunetes mauri*.—This bird was again fairly common here during migration in late summer and early fall of 1940. Four specimens were taken six miles south of Rosedale on these dates: a female, August 13; a male, August 23; a female, August 29; and a male, August 31. (*The Migrant*. vol. 10, September, 1939, pages 44-46.) (M.C.V.)

BROWN TERN, *Sternula albifrons browni*.—A bird taken six miles south of Rosedale on September 3, 1939, proved to be this form. It was a male in good plumage. No record is available showing this form reported heretofore from this state. (P.B.)

SOUTHERN SCREECH OWL, *Otus asio asio*.—Following one of the coldest periods this section of Mississippi has experienced in years a specimen of this form was taken on February 24, 1940, two miles north of Rosedale. It was a female in gray phase. (P.B.)

EASTERN NIGHTHAWK, *Chordeiles minor minor*.—On May 5, 1937, a male of this form was collected three miles south of Rosedale. Identification was made by Dr. Alexander Wetmore, U.S. National Museum, Washington, D.C.

(*) FLORIDA NIGHTHAWK, *Chordeiles minor chapmani*.—A small series of three was taken on May 19, 1940, twelve miles south of Rosedale. There were two males and one female.

NORTHERN FLICKER, *Colaptes auratus luteus.*—A female taken March 4, 1940, near Rosedale, was identified as this form. (P.B.)

ACADIAN FLYCATCHER, *Empidonax virescens.*—A fairly common, locally common, species during spring and summer. A male specimen was taken on May 11, 1940, two miles south of Rosedale. (P.B.)

LEAST FLYCATCHER, *Empidonax minimus.*—A male was collected May 12, 1940, two miles south of Rosedale. This is an uncommon transient in spring and fall in this locality. (P.B.)

NORTHERN HORNED LARK, *Otocoris alpestris alpestris.*—A male of this subspecies was collected January 29, 1940, from a mixed flock of Horned Larks and Lapland Longspurs. This flock contained about two hundred Longspurs and fifteen larks. Locality, about six miles south of Rosedale. Mixed flocks were located daily for several days. (P.B.)

AMERICAN BANK SWALLOW, *Riparia riparia maximiliani.*—A serie of three was taken on August 31, 1940, consisting of one male and two females, five miles south of Rosedale. (M.G.V.)

NORTHERN CLIFF SWALLOW, *Petrochelidon albifrons albifrons.*—Five of these birds were taken from an enormous flock of this and similar species on August 31, 1940, six miles south of Rosedale. Three females and two males were collected. At least five thousand Cliff Swallows were mingling with thousands of similar species. (M.G.V.)

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH, *Sitta canadensis.*—A specimen was collected on May 2, 1940, two miles south of Rosedale. It proved to be a male in nice plumage. (P.B.)

(*) EASTERN ROBIN, *Turdus migratorius migratorius.*—This form is usually found in large flocks during winter. A specimen was taken on February 20, 1940, near Rosedale, and was identified by Dr. Bishop as the eastern form.

(*) SOUTHERN ROBIN, *Turdus migratorius achrusterus.*—This form was taken on February 20, 1940, at Moorhead, Mississippi. It is our nesting form for this section as proved by collection of spring and summer birds.

(*) MONO HERMIT THRUSH, *Hylocichla guttata polionota.*—A male of this form was taken five miles south of Rosedale on April 12, 1940. It is number 51,587 of the Bishop collection. I find no record of this form having been taken in the state heretofore.

GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH, *Hylocichla minima minima.*—On April 29, 1939, a male specimen of this form was secured three miles south of Lobdell. (P.B.)

WILLOW THRUSH, *Hylocichla fuscescens salicicola.*—On May 12, 1940, a male of this subspecies was taken two miles south of Rosedale. (P.B.)

SOUTHERN WHITE-EYED VIREO, *Vireo griseus griseus.*—Five specimens were taken in May and June and have been identified as this, our nesting form.

NORTHERN WHITE-EYED VIREO, *Vireo griseus noveboracensis.*—This subspecies was taken on April 27, 1940, two miles south of Rosedale and was a male. (P.B.)

BLUE-HEADED VIREO, *Lanivireo solitariuvs solitarius.*—A specimen of this form was taken on May 7, 1940, two miles south of Rosedale. It is a male in fine plumage. I have six sight records for spring and eight for fall migration. It is not a plentiful species through this area. (P.B.)

PHILADELPHIA VIREO, *Vireosylva philadelphica.*—A male of this species was collected on October 10, 1938, two miles south of Rosedale. I have not observed this bird during spring and have only six sight records for fall migration. My observation in that this species is the rarest migrant of all the vireos passing through this area. (M.G.V.)

NASHVILLE WARBLER, *Vermivora ruficapilla ruficapilla*.—This species was one of the most numerous migrants of all the warblers found during the spring migration of 1940. Daily they passed in great numbers from April 26 to May 6, when their numbers began to diminish until on May 11 when not one was found. Five specimens were taken in all. A male taken April 27, 1940, was in perfect plumage. (M.C.V.)

(*) WAYNE WARBLER, *Dendroica virens waynei*.—Two males collected on May 2, 1940, two miles south of Rosedale, were identified by Dr. Bishop as this form. This form has not been reported from the state previous to this paper.

NORTHERN PINE WARBLER, *Dendroica pinus pinus*.—This is our nesting form. Specimens have been taken in April, May, June, July, and August. (M.G.V.)

NORTHERN PRAIRIE WARBLER, *Dendroica discolor discolor*.—A female collected three miles south of Rosedale on April 30, 1940, was this form. (P.B.)

WESTERN PALM WARBLER, *Dendroica palmarum palmarum*.—Two specimens were collected from a small flock of fourteen migrants on April 30, 1940, two miles south of the city. One specimen, a male, was sent to Dr. Van Tyne for subspecific identification. (P.B.)

NORTHERN YELLOW-THROAT, *Geothlypis trichas brachidactyla*.—A male and female taken near Rosedale on April 14, and April 21, 1940, respectively, are of this subspecies. (P.B.)

EASTERN GOLDFINCH, *Spinus tristis tristis*.—Several Goldfinches were found sixteen miles east of Grenada, Mississippi on July 14, 1940. A male in fine plumage was taken. Undoubtedly these birds were nesting in this hill-pine association although no nests were found. (M.G.V.)

EASTERN GRASSHOPPER SPARROW, *Ammodramus savannarum australis*.—A male specimen of this form was collected May 5, 1940, two miles west of Walls, Mississippi. (P.B.)

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW, *Zonotrichia leucophrys leucophrys*.—This form was very plentiful here during the past winter following the extremely cold period and remained until May 5. Flocks of twenty or more were found feeding along drainage ditches and uncultivated fields numerous times. Dr. Brodkorb identified a male specimen taken March 10, 1940, two miles east of Lobdell, as this form. Dr. Bishop identified three specimens as of this form also. (P.B.)

ROSEDALE, BOLIVAR COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI, September 18, 1940

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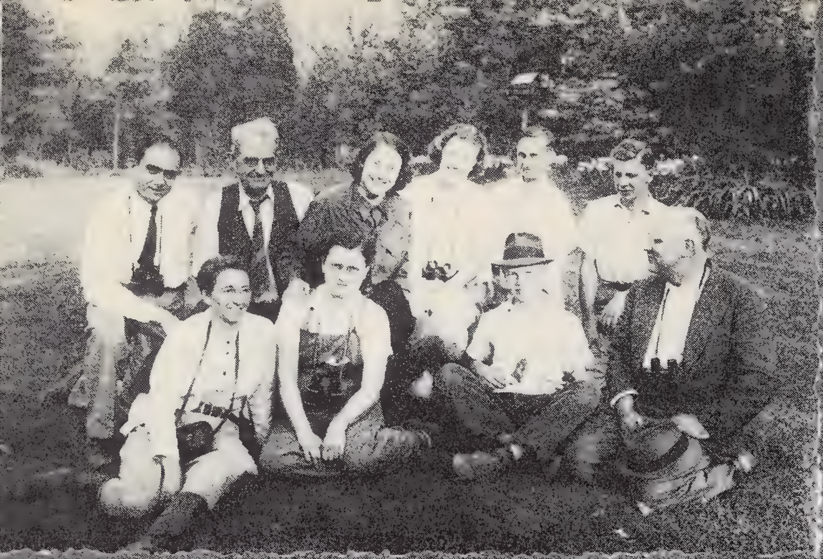
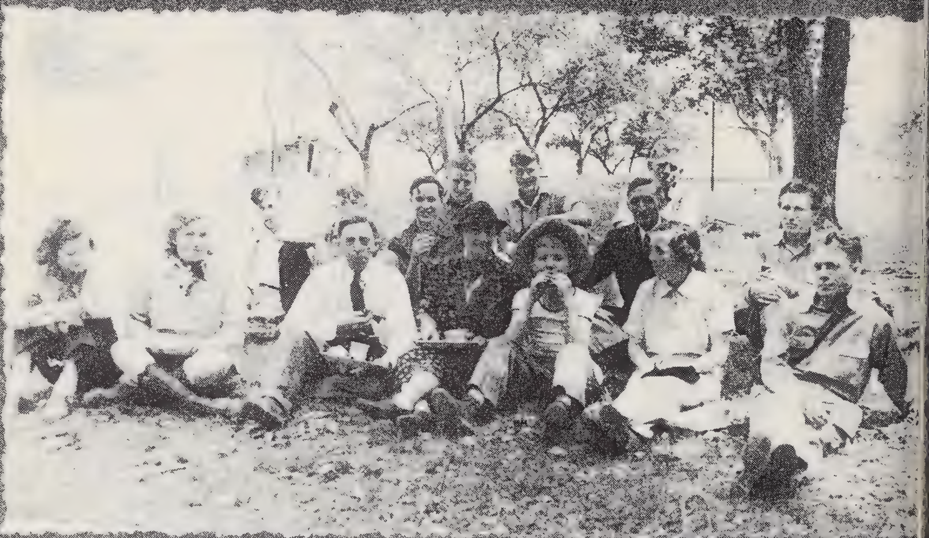
OUR ILLUSTRATIONS:—Befitting this anniversary issue, we think it in order that we should present—instead of birds—some pictures of groups of our members whose hobby and pleasure it is to study the birds. Spring Field Days among our chapters afford opportunities for group photos such as those on the next four pages, these having been taken last spring by Mr. Ganier, with the exception of the Knoxville group which was taken by Mr. Walker. Our 20th Anniversary issue, September, 1935, contained photos of our five founders as well as "candid snaps" of many other active members of the Society.

The Memphis Field Day, May 5, 1940, is shown opposite the Nashville group.



Group
at
Knoxville
Spring
Field
Day.
1940



1940
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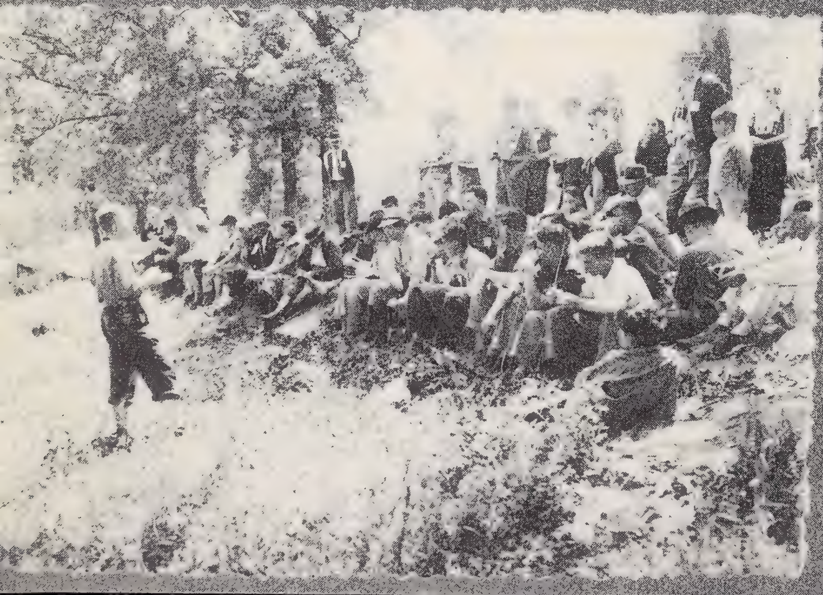

Memphis
Spring
Field
Day
1940
—
Pond
calling
off the
day's
list.

# 1940 BIRD NESTING CENSUS

BY H. P. IJAMS

As one of the Knoxville chapter activities for the year it was decided to conduct this census and Professor Henry Meyer was selected as chairman. Several regular field days were set aside on which the entire club worked on the project. Individual members worked at odd times and a good deal of credit goes to Miss Sarah Allen, a biology student at the University of Tennessee, who spent several days of each week on the place.

The territory covered consisted of about twenty acres almost equally divided between woods and fields with a high bluff and river on one side. A census of the same area had been made in 1924 and reference will be made to it later. The system we worked out was to mark on a large scale map the location of each nest as found. This nest was given a number which was stuck up by it and this number was placed on a card in our file. This card gave all the details as to species, construction of nest, number of eggs, incubation period, number successfully reared, and the like.

The total number of nests found this season was eighty and the total number of species nesting was twenty-six. These were as follows (with the number of nests found): Wood Thrush, 16; Cardinal, 12; Carolina Chickadee, 8; Brown Thrasher, 6; Carolina Wren, 6; Tufted Titmouse, 5; Field Sparrow, 3; Prothonotary Warbler, 3; Bluebird, 2; Robin, 2; and one each for—Barred Owl, Flicker, Downy Woodpecker, Crested Flycatcher, Phoebe, Wood Pewee, Blue Jay, Catbird, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Pine Warbler, Louisiana Water-thrush, Maryland Yellow-throat, English Sparrow, Cowbird, and Chipping Sparrow.

In 1924 one hundred and one nests and thirty-eight species were found. Found in 1940 but not in 1924 were Barred Owl and Pine Warbler. Found in 1924 but not in 1940 were Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Chimney Swift, Acadian Flycatcher, Bewick's Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Black and White Warbler, Oven-bird, Kentucky Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Scarlet Tanager, Summer Tanager, and Towhee.

This would seem to indicate that there were more birds fourteen years ago but I do not believe such to be the case. I think the place was more intensively worked on the later project. I am sure, from hearing them sing all day through the breeding season and seeing them feed fully-fledged young that the following nested on the place this year: Bob-white—a banded male leading a covey of young was freed here this spring; Redstart—young just out of nest brought to the house by a Girl Scout; Dove—two pairs all season; Towhee—mature young all season and as I write this six or eight are coming to the feeding station; Yellow-breasted Chats—two pair singing all spring; Blue-gray Gnatcatchers and Black and White Warblers—fairly common all season.

This year we had no boat on the river which accounts for the absence of Acadian Flycatchers' nests. Indigo Buntings, Cuckoos and Hummingbirds were common all season but no nests were found. Mr. William Walker found Yellow-throated Warblers feeding young in a pine grove where I had looked for the nest all spring.

Last year we had thirty gourds, all occupied by Purple Martins. This year in preparation for the Bird Census we erected forty more but failed to have a Martin nest on the place. One note of interest was that in one pine tree were found nests of the Pine Warbler, Wood Pewee and Chipping Sparrow in the order named. Each new nest was started soon after the previous young had left the tree. We have two Screech Owl boxes on the place which were not used this year. However, we found the remains of three Screech Owls in the Barred Owl box which probably accounts for their absence.

The nesting of the Scarlet Tanager in 1924 I consider as accidental as it is the only record in the twenty-five years I have been living here.

We plan to conduct this census another year and I trust that I will have a more favorable report to make.

KNOXVILLE, September 14, 1940.

# AS SEEN FROM THE KITCHEN WINDOWS

BY AMY WEEDON MOORE

I am a housewife and mother in our family so consequently much of my time has to be spent in the kitchen. We have two windows above the sink which look out over a large back yard containing lawn, flower beds, many trees and shrubs, bird bath, sand pile,—a sanctuary, we hope, both for our children and the birds. From the vantage point of the kitchen windows I have observed some interesting activities of our feathered friends.

When the twins were very small we had a considerable portion of the yard fenced off with a small mesh chicken wire, with a gate upon the drive. One morning in late spring I heard the incessant cry of young Robins begging for food. I looked out to see two young birds on the outside of the fence running back and forth along the wire demanding breakfast from a father from whose bill hung loops of worms. He, likewise, ran back and forth along his side of the fence. The gate was open and the birds would come within two or three inches of reaching it but none of them had sense enough to go through or fly over. This continued for some time. Suddenly Papa had a bright idea. He stuck his head through a hole in the mesh and one of his youngsters greedily relieved him of his mouthful. He then flew away returning in a few minutes with another large mouthful of worms. He made a four-point landing on the inside of the fence. Same old story, but this time it did not take him so long. He stuck his head through and fed his offspring. Away again for more worms. I watched him feed them several times, always in the same manner. How long this lasted I do not know as I was called away from the window and when I returned later they were gone.

We have a large sand box under the apple tree. When I put it there and had it filled with clean, white, river sand, I did not know that it would be an attraction for the birds, but during midsummer I observed that every afternoon Thrashers would take possession of the sand pile. At first I thought there might be worms in it that they liked but soon discovered that they were taking sand baths. I have seen as many as seven Thrashers at once in the sand box, some of them asserting squatters' rights for the claims they had staked out.

It was about this time that my husband built a new garage. One morning we heard a Red-headed Woodpecker making considerable noise at the back and upon investigation found he had drilled two large round holes in the new door. Later an old sweater was discarded and hung on a nail in the garage and promptly forgotten. There it stayed until one chilly morning the owner was forced to look around for his misplaced sweater. But when he found it he also found that a pair of wrens had set up housekeeping in one of the pockets. Needless to say he did not take the sweater down, but unfortunately some one disturbed the birds at a later date before the eggs were hatched. We were very disappointed.

A pair of Red-headed Woodpeckers lived in a nearby telephone pole for several seasons. One spring a pair of Starlings took possession of the hole and a fight was waged between the birds for several days. The Starlings seemed to realize that the Woodpeckers could not hurt them or get the nest if one or the other of them stayed in the hole. Eventually they won out or wore out the poor 'red heads' who moved down the street to another pole. This spring the telephone company replaced the pole with a new one. We hoped that the Starlings would be routed. Not so. They found another hole, one of which we were not aware in the under side of the porch roof, and in there they moved.

There is always more or less rivalry between the Robins, Brown Thrashers, Mockingbirds, and Cardinals as to which is lord of the domains. But they band together and cry "cat-cat!" whenever neighbor's puss comes over. Wrens and Catbirds also join in the war cry until some member of the family hastens out to chase away the marauder. During the Mockingbirds' nesting season they will not allow a dog on the grounds without protesting. One dog in particular they attacked every time he came into the yard, swooping down and pecking his back, or darting low toward his face. When they pecked him, he would look around to see what had hurt him, and never realizing that he was an unwelcome intruder.

It is interesting to note the different kinds of birds that come for crumbs and suet, particularly in stormy weather. These include Flickers, Red-headed Woodpeckers, and Meadowlarks as well as the usual garden birds. I have also noticed, in bitter weather especially, when the snow is on the ground, many Meadowlarks come into the garden and lawn. One day late last fall I was surprised to find a covey of Bob-whites in the back yard. I had never seen them there before. A few days later I heard a "bob-white" call over my head and looked to see the bird. Nothing in sight but a Starling on the telephone wire. In a few minutes I heard it again. Then I watched and discovered that the Starling was mocking the Bob-white. A few weeks later I read that they are more perfect mockers than the Mockingbirds themselves.

MEMPHIS, August, 1940.

# THE SEASON

MEMPHIS AREA:—As usual, the present seasonal attraction has been focused on the transient shorebird population of Mud Lake, nine miles south of the city on the Tenn.-Miss. state line. Here the extensive mudflats were well occupied with sandpipers and, although not numerically inferior to the excellent representation observed last year, the rarer species obtained then have been lacking thus far. However, species of unusual interest other than shorebirds have been recorded to partly cover the deficit. On Aug. 12, 51 White Pelicans soared overhead while our party was working with the shorebirds on the mudflats below. This is rather an early record for this species. Two Mississippi Kites seen simultaneously with the Pelicans presented an interesting combination.——While driving along the levee just at sunrise on Aug. 21 we sighted two adult Bald Eagles perched in a tall cypress along the lake's edge. One of the birds when disturbed glided out over the lake and flew leisurely around a cruising Osprey. We waited expectantly for further action but the birds soon parted company uneventfully.——The Mud Lake shorebirds were approached with greater difficulty this year due to the constant marauding tactics of a Duck Hawk. This falcon was observed on every trip, swooping down upon feeding flocks of sandpipers but not once was he seen to make an effort to capture his prey or object of amusement.——Pectoral Sandpipers were the most abundant shorebirds, numbering from 150 on Aug. 12 to 500 on Sept. 4. Over the same period Least Sandpipers increased from 150 to 300, Semipalmated Sandpipers from 100 to 200, Lesser Yellow-legs from 40 to 75, and Semipalmated Plovers from 15 to 25. Stilt Sandpipers were seen sparingly on each trip with a maximum of 8 on Aug. 17. The Western Sandpiper also reached a peak on Aug. 17 when 15 were seen. Four Dowitchers, the first of the season, were seen on Sept. 4 by Welch.——The heron population was below par until a sudden influx on Sept. 4 raised the number to 400. Little Blue Herons remained constant around 35 to 40.——A single Double-crested Cormorant was seen on Aug. 21 and another in company with two Water Turkeys on Aug. 25 by Welch. A single Cliff Swallow was seen on Aug. 21. This just about made up the Mud Lake observations.——Six Canada Warblers were seen at the Park on Aug. 24, and a female Wilson's Warbler at Galloway Park on Aug. 19. Burdick also reports two singing Chipping Sparrows at Galloway on July 19.——Other Overton records, by Tucker and Welch, were as follows: two Blackburnian Warblers on Aug. 31, 10 Blue-winged Warblers and 20 Canada Warblers on Aug. 26. Parulas, Black and Whites, Redstarts, and Black-throated Green Warblers were constantly present in fair numbers the latter part of August.—EUGENE WALLACE, University, La.

NASHVILLE AREA:—The season has been an average one; it has been neither too dry nor unusually hot. Comparatively few of our members have been afield much this summer. Nesting, although starting later than usual last spring, apparently has not extended unusually late. Such birds as the hawks and vultures, which normally raise but one brood per season, were notably late in fledging their young; but those species which raise two or more broods seem to have finished nesting chores on time. Chipping Sparrows were seen fledging as late as Aug. 25. Most of us are glad that the

Dove season is being withheld in Tennessee this year till Sept. 15,—some Doves are always still nesting in early September. H. C. Monk reported a pair of them nesting at Centennial Park Sept. 4. Little Blue Herons, usually immature ones, wander into our vicinity and are casually observed nearly every summer. Dr. Mayfield recorded one at Stone's River June 23; another was seen at the lake adjacent to Thompson lane Aug. 6. Dr. Mayfield also reports: 8 records of Great Blue Herons at Stone's River this summer, Spotted Sandpipers as late as May 24 and as early as July 14, Solitary Sandpiper July 12, a very early Black-throated Green Warbler Aug. 19, Blackburnian Warbler Aug. 25, Canada Warbler Aug. 23, and Chestnut-sided Warbler Aug. 27. Dr. Mayfield reports 57 species nested in and around his camp, 'Idlewood.'——Chimney Swifts haven't flocked as early as usual and the flocks seem to be smaller than normal. Only two flocks, containing 660 unbanded and 69 banded Swifts, have been banded as yet by Mrs. Laskey.——Birds such as Robins, Starlings, Doves, and Wrens have been considerably scarcer since last winter's severe weather.——I relieved a pair of Black Vultures of a share of their burden last June when I agreed to care for the greediest of their two one-month-old youngsters. My down-covered charge soon earned the undeserving name of Ugly. After living with me for two and a half months, Ugly learned to fly. Before long my pet was flying anywhere she pleased,—on the neighbors' porches, roofs, in attic windows, in yards, and on cars. One man a block away from my house was about to shoot the 'eagle' in his yard when some of the neighborhood children who knew Ugly stopped him. I soon was made aware of my devoted pet's unpopularity in my neighborhood. Ugly was disliked not because she killed birds and ate goldfish as do my neighbors' cats, not because she ruined gardens as do my neighbors' chickens, nor yet because she was dirty, noisy and flea-infested as are my neighbors' dogs. Ugly was disliked mostly because she was a buzzard. Ugly is now earning a reputation for herself on Bill Simpson's farm.—ARTHUR A. MCMURRAY, Nashville.

KNOXVILLE AREA:—Although it is rather late in the season to discuss the effects of the past winter, observations throughout the spring and summer are basis for the following brief notes. The Killdeer came nearer extirpation than any other species under observation. Practically every pair of winter residents was either killed or moved south. In three localities members of the club found the remains of this species. Only with the migration in late August have we seen more than an occasional Killdeer. The Bewick's Wren, never abundant here, was not observed by the writer nor reported seen by other members until late in April. The Carolina Wren about forty per cent normal this year and even at this writing—early September—there is a noticeable scarcity of this species. Several Towhees and Swamp Sparrows were found dead during the cold weather. The Sparrow Hawks evidently suffered heavily, also, because some of their former regular habitats had no nesting pairs this summer.——Spring migration was normal as to time of arrival but the migrants came through in very small numbers until the season was well advanced. The best general wave was noted on May 5 and 6. We had more than the usual number of reports on the Tennessee, Golden-winged, and Wilson's Warblers, while the Worm-eating, Chestnut-sided, and Canada Warblers were seen only on one or two occasions. All of the above six are uncommon here during migration.——The flash floods on the Tennessee River in late August and early September have submerged the usual mud-flats near Island Home Park. Consequently our most convenient place for observing shore birds has temporarily disappeared. At Lake Andrew Jackson on Aug. 31 we had 1 Coot, 2 Pied-billed Grebes, 10 Blue-winged Teal, 18 Killdeer, 4 Solitary Sandpipers and 4 Semipalmated Plovers. This latter species is a very rare transient for this section of the state (See *The Migrant*, 1935, p. 30). The Green Heron was relatively abundant at Lake Andrew Jackson on Aug. 31. Usually they have left for the south on Aug. 20 or earlier. ——Purple Martins and Nighthawks were common until mid-August with Sept. 9 the last date on both species.——'Late nests' was one of the round-table topics of our Sept. 4 meeting. Miss Williams reported 2 Cardinals had left their nest on Sept. 2, although they were not fully feathered. One egg did not hatch. The writer observed 2 young Robins on Aug. 31 and 3 young Mockers on Sept. 2. The parents were feeding both species.——There is a large Grackle-Starling roost in south Knoxville, but as yet the Starlings are present in comparatively small numbers.— W. M. WALKER, Knoxville.

# THE ROUND TABLE

PRAIRIE HORNED LARKS IN MIDDLE TENNESSEE:—In May, 1938, I identified the Prairie Horned Lark in southeastern Montgomery County, Tenn. I heard him in his flight song and reasonably concluded, from his movements at that season of the year, that the bird had nested there.——On May 14, 1939, I identified several of these birds in the open field south of Sycamore Creek, in Cheatham County. I had no opportunity to look for their nests but I think it is again reasonable to conclude that they had nested in that region. A few days later I recorded one in its flight song at Elkton, Kentucky, just above the Tennessee line.——May 18, 1940, accompanying some Boy Scouts of the Tennessee Training and Agricultural School with Mr. Will Shearon and Mrs. Nat Caldwell, I found one on the state farm near Jordonia, in Davidson County, across the Cumberland River from West Nashville. This is especially interesting in that it is some distance within the Nashville basin. ——The evidence seems to point to a wider distribution of these birds in the nesting season than we had supposed.—JAS. A. ROBINS, Nashville.

PRAIRIE HORNED LARK NOTES (MISS.-TENN.):—On March 12, 1932, I discovered a pair of Prairie Horned Larks in a field near Holly Springs, Miss., 40 miles southeast of Memphis. Since these birds are early nesters there was a possibility that these were nesting or remaining to nest. Subsequently that season we found Horned Larks with young at the Memphis Municipal Airport (see *The Migrant*, 1932, p. 36). Since then I have visited the Holly Springs site twice without seeing a Lark. On a fourth visit, July 4, 1940, I was successful, after considerable walking, in finding an adult bird and a bird in immature plumage. These were found together. A third was seen in flight. This constitutes the first summer record for Mississippi and is the most southerly record of this race at this season.——On Mar. 26 and April 23, 1933, a pair were seen near Corinth, Miss., but north of the Tennessee line (*The Migrant*, 1933, p. 20).—At the Municipal Airport, a mile southeast of the Memphis city limits, we have not always been successful in finding the Horned Larks in the seasons intervening since their discovery in 1932. This is due chiefly to the fact that we cannot go out on the field which has also been greatly increased in size. However, a small flock of them, including immature birds, has been seen there regularly this summer by both Whittemore and Pond.——Incidentally the latter was risking his neck trying to imitate one, but completed the CPTP course and soloed without mishap.—BEN B. COFFEY, JR., Memphis.

MISSISSIPPI KITE NESTING IN A CITY PARK:—Overton Park is five miles from the Court House in Memphis. Residential areas surround its 355 acres on all four sides. The eastern portion, about 100 acres, is heavy woodland, almost unbroken in extent except for auto drives and bridle paths traversing it. In the June issue (p.48) we mentioned that one to two Mississippi Kites had been reported there by Scouts, from May 6 on. We made several trips to try and locate the nest during the summer but without success. Often we failed to see the Kites. One locality was favored by them but not solely. Burdick, Tucker, and Welch also saw them at various times. On Aug. 24 Burdick saw an immature bird and on a few occasions afterwards saw from one to two immatures.——Recently we learned that on Aug. 4 a young Kite, not quite able to fly, had been found on a park drive and given to the Zoo, located in the park. The bird was in good condition when we viewed it. Mr. J. E. Jolly of the Zoo staff kindly supplied the above information.——This is not the first instance of this species nesting inside the city. As stated in previous issues a pair was present several summers in Vance Woods and evidently reared young successfully, one season at least. The area is well wooded but practically without undergrowth and small trees. It is located on the southern edge of the city.—BEN B. COFFEY, JR., Memphis.

AN ELECTRIC BIRD BATH—A bird bath in your yard that doesn't freeze will give you lots of pleasure each winter as well as serve the birds. During the cold months of January and February with outside temperature of from below zero to five and ten degrees above, birds came to my electric bird bath and bathed as if it were mid-summer.——The rig-up is inexpensive and easy to do. Remove from a heavy duty soldering iron the heating element. This element (125 watts) can be purchased separately from either Montgomery Ward or Sears, Roebuck. Place this element in the end of a one-inch galvanized pipe which is threaded at both ends. Cap the end of pipe tightly where the element is. On the other end of pipe screw on a short elbow. Three-fourths of the length of this pipe to be submerged in water, the elbow end to protrude over edge of bath and out of the water,—open end of elbow turned down to prevent rain and snow from entering. Length of pipe to be about one-half the diameter of your bird bath and lying in water from edge to center. Connect to house current, wires running through elbow open end down to and connected with element.——Sweep water out at night with current off. Fill bath each morning and connect current. This rig will keep about two gallons of water from freezing in the coldest weather. If temperature rises above freezing point, disconnect. Wire from house to bath should be heavily insulated, especially so if it is to lie on ground. A lead cable (also from Montgomery Ward or Sears, Roebuck) carrying wire is best. This can be placed underground and would be permanent.—CHAS. PICKERING, Clarksville.

## DR. CHARLES W. QUAINTANCE

The T. O. S. loses a valued member in the person of Dr. Quaintance who helped organize the youngest but one of our most active chapters and was its first president. Head of the Biological Department of State Teachers College at Johnson City, he leaves to accept a similar position with the Eastern Oregon College of Education, La Grande, Oregon. Though still a young man his career has been packed with interesting experiences in his chosen field. In Philadelphia he was employed in an arboretum and served as a Scoutmaster. He majored in biology at the University of Arizona and worked for the U. S. Biological Survey, Flagstaff Museum, and National Parks Service (as Wildlife Technician in some of our western parks). Dr. Quaintance secured his Master's degree at the University of California and his Doctor's degree at Cornell. He came to Johnson City in 1939 on his first college appointment and during his all too short a stay here he created a great interest in our local chapter. His many friends wish him God-speed in his new undertaking.—BRUCE P. TYLER.

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Opening of the Dove hunting season this year was postponed until Sept. 15, fifteen days later than in many years. This ruling was promulgated by the Fish and Wildlife Service (U.S. Biological Survey) after carefully made studies which showed that the birds were being thinned down as a result of their late nesting habits and intensive hunting made possible by good roads and autos. The T.O.S. has been active in bringing about this step toward conservation, especially by publishing in *The Migrant* records of many nests from which the young had not flown as the hunting season opened. Mr. Gillem of the Wildlife Service was sent to Tennessee during September to make a check on conditions and observe results.

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Most of our readers have received announcements of the publication of "Audubon's America." Without passing on the merits of this particular book we desire to point out that the Methodist Publishing House is a valued advertiser and supporter of *The Migrant* and can supply all your needs in the bird-book line.

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### BACK NUMBERS

A limited supply of back numbers of *The Migrant* are avilable at 25 cents each. Volume One (mimeographed) is not available. It is planned to reprint it in the present style.

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### TENNESSEE AVIFAUNA

Two publications by Albert F. Ganier, have been issued by the Society:

No. 1. "A Distributional List of the Birds of Teneessee," Jan. 1933, pp. 1-65. Price, 50c.

No. 2. "Water Birds of Reelfoot Lake," Feb. 1933, pp. 1-24 illustrated, price 35c.

# THE MIGRANT

A QUARTERLY JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE STUDY OF TENNESSEE BIRDS.
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Supported by membership dues of $1 per year. Please remit to
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Regional Editors: Albert F. Ganier, Nashville; W. M. Walker, Knoxville;
Bruce P. Tyler, Johnson City; Alfred Clebsch, Clarksville.

*"The simple truth about birds is interesting enough,
it is not necessary to go beyond it."*

PLEASE NOTIFY THE SECRETARY OF A CHANGE IN ADDRESS

## TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF COOPERATION

On October 7, 1915, in their adopted city of Nashville, five 'bird-men' whom destiny had drawn together thru a mutual interest, met and organized the Tennessee Ornithological Society. Since the state offered practically a virgin field for ornithologists, frequent and intensive field work around Nashville, spreading gradually to every corner of the state, occupied almost their sole attention. However, in addition to Dr. George M. Curtis (now of Ohio State University) who joined shortly after the first meeting, several other members were elected the following year, 1916. Among our present valued members these included Mrs. Wm. P. Morgan, Miss Lillie Hasslock (now Mrs. George R. Mayfield), and Messrs. Dan R. Gray, Harry S. Vaughn, and Jesse M. Shaver. Today, the Society with its statewide membership and many active chapters, is a memorial to two of these five men, Judge H. Y. Hughes and Prof. A. C. Webb, and a living credit to the remaining three. Dixon Merritt, after extended absence from the state, now resides in Lebanon, while Albert F. Ganier and George R. Mayfield have continued leading and unbroken roles in developing the usefulness and extending the membership of the Society. In fact their influence is felt far beyond the boundaries of our state as evidenced by our representative list of corresponding members and by the subsequent organization of similar societies in nearby states.

Bird students at Knoxville, under the leadership of Harry P. Ijams, affiliated in 1923 and at Memphis a chapter was formed by Coffey, Bamburg, and Davant in 1929. Purely local societies had either reorganized or disintegrated but organization and cooperation was now building a truly lasting statewide organization. Ganier, Mayfield, Monk, Shaver, Vaughn, and others visited and encouraged and their goodwill was returned. Annual Field Days proved beneficial and inspirational. In 1931 *The Migrant* appeared, to play an important part in binding our membership together and in furnishing a medium for contacting individuals isolated from the companionship of those with a kindred interest. Under the influence of Tyler in Upper East Tennessee, Clebsch in Clarksville, Gray, Morgan, and Rogers, in Middle Tennessee, Davis and Todd in Murfreesboro, and Morrison in Dickson, additional chapters have become established.

In 1938 a new constitution providing for a representative state-wide board of directors was adopted. Under its terms the Society was subsequently incorporated and is now in a better position to receive bequests.

Additional types of membership were made available to encourage more generous contributions from those members able to do so and desirous of adequately promoting bird study and bird conservation. Eventually, it is hoped, the Society can finance educational and sanctuary work and realize other worthwhile objectives. The usefulness and scope of *The Migrant* can be extended and enlarged. A comprehensive and creditable book on the birds of Tennessee should be sponsored as early as possible and financial backing developed. Preparation of such a volume is aided as each of us makes observations, records them, and then shares them with others thru the pages of *The Migrant*.

**The Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the founding of the Tennessee Ornithological Society will be celebrated at Nashville on Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 19 and 20.** Members from a distance will be shown points of interest on Saturday and a dinner will be held in the evening. The following day a Field Trip will be held at Idlewild wood on Stone's River near the City. Lunch will be served on the grounds by the Nashville Chapter, who will be hosts on this occasion. It is hoped that a large number of members from over the State can attend.

Your editor appreciates the cooperation of the contributors to this issue. The result of their response is this unusually large anniversary issue. We want to thank Mr. Ganier for handling the illustrations for us, down to the completed job. Since our funds are limited the December issue will necessarily be about minimum size. It will contain, however, an interesting article by Mrs. Laskey on the Swift banding at Nashville, notes on Barn Owls, and an article on planting to attract birds. Others are requested. Particularly do we want a variety of short notes covering all parts of the state. This is a personal plea to you,—frankly, our only chance to request it of you. You do not have to be an authority or write a page of more to be numbered among our contributors. An examination of the pages of this and other issues will give you a general idea of the style of our text. For the next issue please send all 'copy' before December 1. We will have to observe this dead-line without fail. If you have any comments on shrubs, vines, and plants for the home and sanctuary please send them to us. We plan also to publish a few 'tall tales' or prejudiced anecdotes about hawks and eagles, later proved fanciful and incorrect. If you have any facts on such incidents please send them to us.

The following contributions were received for use on this anniversary issue, thus allowing us to publish both illustrations and extra pages. We are indebted to them for this assistance.

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| Chatham, Miss Mattie Lee, Apt. C-6, Woodmont Terrace | 1931 |
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| Ganier, Albert F., 2112 Woodlawn Drive, FOUNDER | 1915 |
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| Goodpasture, Ken, Hood's Hill Road | 1938 |
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| McMurray, Arthur, 2110 Jones Ave. | 1936 |
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| McNish, Mrs. Edgar M., Madison, Tenn. | 1939 |
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| Metcalf, James, 1105 Frances Ave. | 1939 |

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| Monk, Harry C., Avoca Apt., 3108 Long Blvd. | 1919 |
| Moon, Miss Aileen, 810 Broad St. | 1939 |
| Moore, Paul A., State Dept. of Conservation | 1940 |
| Mortimer, Max F., 930 Waldkirch Ave. | 1940 |
| Oman, Miss Catherine S., Glenburn Cottage, Westover Drive | 1940 |
| O'Neill, Miss Irene, 2511 Kensington Place | 1939 |
| Orr, Mrs. Robert, Jr., "Omagh," Madison, Tenn. | 1933 |
| Phillips, Dr. Jno. H., 2117 Blair Blvd. | 1921 |
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| Pritchett, John A., Jr., 2006 Ashwood Ave. | 1938 |
| Pruette, Mrs. Olah, State Museum, Memorial Bldg. | 1937 |
| Ramsdell, Dr. E. T., School of Religion, Vanderbilt University | 1937 |
| Rice, Miss Nancy, 1704 Carmack Ave. | 1938 |
| Rich, Miss Amy, 1922 Convent Place | 1935 |
| Rippy, Leo, Jr., 515 Orient Circle | 1935 |
| Robins, Prof. Jas., Vanderbilt University | 1921 |
| Ruef, Miss Frances, 306 22nd Ave. N. | 1937 |
| Schreiber, E. D., Tennessee Industrial School | 1931 |
| Sharp, Vernon, Jr., 225 Capitol Blvd. | 1921 |
| Shaver, Dr. Jesse M., Peabody College | 1916 |
| Simpson, Mrs. O. L., Campbell Road, Goodlettsville, Tenn. | 1940 |
| Spofford, Dr. W. R., Vanderbilt Medical School | 1940 |
| Talley, Mrs. N. W., 1605 Villa Place | 1937 |
| Tanksley, Mrs. Laura Hayes, Franklin Road | 1936 |
| Tippens, Mrs. C. B., 2010 15th Ave. S. | 1933 |
| Tirrill, W. O., 3609 Richland Ave., SUSTAINING MEMBER | 1935 |
| Tompkins, Mrs. E. C., Shepard Place, Belle Meade | 1935 |
| Tompkins, Miss Cynthia, Shepard Place, Belle Meade | 1932 |
| Trabue, Chas. C., Harding Road, Route No. 2 | 1934 |
| Trabue, Mrs. Chas., Harding Road, Route No. 2 | 1934 |
| Underwood, Mrs. Newton, 198 Kenner Ave. | 1937 |
| Vaughn, Dr. Harry S., 2525 Hillsboro Road | 1916 |
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| Weakley, S. A., 2901 Westmoreland Drive | 1933 |
| Weakley, Mrs. S. A., 2901 Westmoreland Drive | 1933 |
| Williams, Miss Clara, 1311 Ordway Place | 1937 |
| Woodring, Geo. B., Hillsboro Branch, Am. Natl. Bank | 1927 |
| Yarbrough, G. McTyeire, 1511 Eastland Ave. | 1933 |
| Simpson, William, Wofford College, Spartanburg, S. C. | 1936 |

## MEMPHIS CHAPTER

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| Alteberry, Edward, 29 S. Tucker | 1940 |
| Baker, Dr. C. L., 767 West Drive | 1937 |
| Burdick, Austin, Jr., 3631 S. Galloway Drive | 1938 |
| Carney, Fred W., 2052 Linden Ave. | 1934 |
| Coffey, Ben B., Jr., 672 N. Belvedere | 1926 |
| Coffey, Mrs. Ben B., Jr., 672 N. Belvedere | 1931 |
| Cooper, Mrs. R. E., 680 S. Barksdale | 1939 |
| Crump, Dabney H., Box 117 | 1933 |
| Cummins, Mrs. Lee, Director, Memphis Museum | 1937 |
| Daniel, Mrs. Irene, 1194 Sledge | 1939 |
| Davant, Miss Mary, 861 N. McLean | 1929 |
| Embury, Jack, Route No. 2, Box 73, Germantown, Tenn. (1929) | 1935 |
| Fiedler, Fred, Jr., 822 Charles Place | 1940 |
| Guth, L. G., Route No. 1, Box 545 (Whitehaven) | 1936 |
| Guth, Mrs. L. G., Route No. 1, Box 545 (Whitehaven) | 1936 |
| Hale, Mrs. C. H., 1125 Minna Place | 1938 |
| Hale, Miss Katherine, 1125 Minna Place | 1938 |
| Hall, Miss Jacqueline, 1126 Poplar Ave. (1929) | 1938 |
| Humphreys, Kenneth, 1949 Carr | 1940 |
| Hutcheson, Scott, 2109 Harbert | 1940 |
| Jameson, Miss Julia, 1915 Union | 1938 |
| Jolly, J. E., 2465 Yale Avenue | 1940 |

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| Jones, Mrs. Lee D., 593 LeMaster | 1933 |
| Keeton, Luther, 1356 Jefferson Ave. | 1940 |
| Keith, Miss Wilma, 1229 Carr | 1935 |
| Kent, Lawrence, 1896 Cowden | 1937 |
| Landstreet, Mrs. E. L., 288 Greer | 1939 |
| Laurenzi, Billy, 309 N. McLean | 1940 |
| Leroy, Dr. Louis, 1168 Poplar | 1933 |
| Mason, Joe, Route No. 5, Box 240 (White Station) | 1938 |
| Maury, Mrs. John M., Sr., 567 E. Parkway, So. | 1932 |
| Moore, Dr. C. E., 439 Patterson | 1931 |
| Porter, Mrs. Arthur R., Jr., 2121 Poplar Ave. | 1938 |
| Powell, Albert, 341 N. McNeil St. | 1934 |
| Powell, Mrs. Kathryn, 31 E. Parkway S. | 1940 |
| Quigley, Miss Douglas, 268 Hollywood | 1939 |
| Rucker, Dr. S. T., Box 1400 | 1936 |
| Seahorn, Mrs. Chas. W., Route 2, Box 32-B, Germantown, Tenn. | 1940 |
| Seffens, Miss Virginia, 2400 Autumn | 1935 |
| Smith, Miss Alice, 329 N. Bellevue | 1933 |
| Snodgress, Paul, 947 Birch | 1940 |
| Statler, David, 162 Goodwyn | 1940 |
| Statler, Tony, 162 Goodwyn | 1940 |
| Torti, Mrs. M. L., 3107 Spottswood | 1938 |
| Tucker, Robert, 1961 Mignon | 1939 |
| Tucker, Mrs. H. E., 1961 Mignon | 1940 |
| Van Hoesen, Frank, 1968 Southern Ave. | 1939 |
| Walker, Billy, 1966 Snowden Ave. | 1938 |
| Welch, Ben, 1946 Snowden Ave. | 1938 |
| Whittemore, Wendell, Hospital for Crippled Adults | 1935 |
| Wilkerson, Bob, P. O. Box 2461 | 1939 |
| Wood, Dr. Percy H., 411 N. Highland | 1939 |

| | |
|---|---|
| McCamey, Franklin, Yale School of Forestry, New Haven, Conn. | 1934 |
| Pond, John, University of Georgia, Athens, Ga. | 1935 |
| Vardaman, James, Univ. of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich. | 1938 |
| Wallace, Eugene, 3134 Darymple Drive, Baton Rouge, La. | 1938 |

## JOHNSON CITY CHAPTER

| | |
|---|---|
| Carpenter, Bud, 229 Lowe St., Erwin, Tenn. | 1940 |
| Chandler, Miss Kate, Route No. 2, Erwin, Tenn. | 1940 |
| Doak, Miss Ruby, 1411 Virginia St. | 1940 |
| Dyer, Miss Elizabeth, 813 Lake St. | 1940 |
| Dyer, William M., 200 W. Holston Ave. | 1940 |
| Dyer, Mrs. William M., 200 W. Holston Ave. | 1940 |
| Geiger, Mrs. Katherine McKay, 1108 Southwest Ave. | 1939 |
| Grayheal, A. C., 202 Delaware St. | 1939 |
| Greene, Edwin, Unicoi, Tenn. | 1940 |
| Harmon, Miss Evelyn, Whitesburg, Tenn. | 1940 |
| Hendrix, Olear, Route No. 5 | 1940 |
| Hendrix, Walter M., Route No. 5 | 1940 |
| Hughes, Claude C., Green Mountain, N. C. | 1940 |
| Hyder, A. E., 908 W. Maple St. | 1938 |
| Jackson, Mrs. S. D., 312 E. Watauga Ave. | 1939 |
| Lewis, Rev. W. J., Limestone, Tenn. | 1940 |
| Lowe, Everette, Habersham, Tenn. | 1940 |
| Lyle, Robert B., 211 W. Unaka Ave. | 1931 |
| McCrary, Mrs. Mary Gordon, 415 Highland Ave. | 1939 |
| Miller, Mrs. R. R., 704 E. Watauga Ave. | 1939 |
| Poe, Mrs. Lillian, 807 Lake St. | 1939 |
| Richardson, William, 110 E. Myrtle Ave. | 1940 |
| Sharer, Charles L., South Pittsburg, Tenn. | 1940 |
| Shumate, Mrs. L. H., Kingsport Highway | 1940 |
| Tate, Miss Sena, 812 W. Maple St. | 1940 |
| Tyler, Bruce P., 215 W. Unaka Ave., SUSTAINING MEMBER | 1932 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Zimmerman, Mrs. A. M., Vandalia Apts. No. 2 | 1940 |
| Zimmerman, Mrs. J. R., 104 W. Pine St. | 1939 |
| Quaintance, Dr. Charles W., Eastern Oregon College of Education, La Grande, Ore. | 1939 |

## KNOXVILLE CHAPTER

| | |
|---|---|
| Baird, Charles, 1631 Laurel Ave. | 1936 |
| Broome, Mrs. Harvey, 3730 N. Broadway, Fountain City, Tenn. | 1940 |
| Chiles, Miss Mary Ruth, Gatlinburg, Tenn. | 1932 |
| Crouch, Brockway, Brooks Road | 1923 |
| Dougherty, Ed. W., 301 E. Burwell Ave. | 1939 |
| Goddard, Frelan, 827 Highland Drive, Fountain City, Tenn. | 1940 |
| Hall, Mrs. Lelia, Priscilla Apts. 902 Walnut St. | 1939 |
| Hay, John J., 705 Island Home Pike | 1927 |
| Henry, Dr. Earl O., 206 W. Glenwood | 1929 |
| Ijams, Mr. and Mrs. H. P., Island Home Pike | 1923 |
| Jennings, Rodney, Dutch Valley Road | 1939 |
| Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. M., Riverside Road, Route No. 4 | 1927 |
| Leonhard, Mrs. Frank, 203 Elmwood Ave. | 1934 |
| Meyer, Prof. and Mrs. Henry, Alsie Drive | 1938 |
| Monroe, Mrs. Robert A., 3221 Woodhill Drive | 1940 |
| Morrell, Miss Elise, 148 W. Peachtree St. | 1939 |
| Ogden, S. A., 201 E. 5th Ave., Fountain City, Tenn. | 1923 |
| Powers, Dr. E. B., 133 E. Hillvale Ave. | 1923 |
| Templeton, Mrs. Lucy Curtis, News-Sentinel | 1940 |
| Tuell, A. R., 1985 Branson Ave. | 1938 |
| Walker, Mr. and Mrs. William, Jr., 201 E. Peachtree St. | 1922 |
| Williams, Miss Dorothy, Apt. 1, Kingston Manor | 1938 |
| McGriff, Miss Mary O., Brunswick, Ga. | 1938 |

## CLARKSVILLE CHAPTER

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|---|---|
| Armstrong, Lamar, 619 Madison St. | 1936 |
| Clebsch, Alfred, 838 Gracey Ave. | 1936 |
| Clebsch, Alfred, Jr., 838 Gracey Ave. | 1936 |
| Clebsch, Edward, 838 Gracey Ave. | 1937 |
| Collier, Clarence, Jr., Greenwood Ave. | 1936 |
| Hughes, Mrs. M. L., 503 Madison St. | 1937 |
| Hutchison, Mrs. John Y., Cumberland Terrace | 1936 |
| Marshall, Miss Adine, 1232 Madison St. | 1937 |
| Moore, Mrs. C. H., Greenwood Ave. | 1937 |
| Noland, Wm. M., 717 Madison St. | 1936 |
| Peay, Mrs. Austin, 619 Madison St. | 1936 |
| Pickering, Dr. Chas. F., 324 Greenwood Ave. | 1936 |
| Ridgway, Jimmy, 921 Madison St. | 1940 |
| Sharpe, Mrs. J. E., Madison Terrace | 1937 |
| Thompson, Bobby, 825 Greenwood Ave. | 1940 |

## BLUE GRASS CHAPTER

| | |
|---|---|
| Claggett, Alfred E., Wales, Giles Co. | 1936 |
| Gray, Dan R., Route No. 4, Box 235, Mt. Pleasant | 1916 |
| Gray, Dan R., Jr., Route No. 4, Box 235, Mt. Pleasant | 1937 |
| Harlan, Mrs. Alan B., Route No. 3, Box 34, Columbia | 1937 |
| McKinney, R. L., Columbia | 1938 |
| Morgan, Mrs. Wm. P., "Oaklee," Columbia | 1916 |
| Petway, Mrs. R. K., Columbia | 1940 |
| Porter, Dr. O. J., Columbia | 1936 |
| Ridley, W. P., Clifton Place, Jackson Highway, Columbia | 1938 |
| Rogers, Mrs. Sam H., 315 Flower St., Pulaski | 1935 |
| Stone, Porter, Pulaski | 1938 |
| Wagstaff, Miss Etta, Lynnville | 1931 |
| Williamson, Dr. George C., Columbia | 1935 |
| Yeatman, Harry, Route No. 1, Columbia | 1934 |
| Zumbro, Mrs. J. W., 304 Haynes St., Lewisburg | 1938 |

## DICKSON CHAPTER

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|---|---|
| Bowman, Billie, 306 W. Walnut St. | 1939 |
| Chandler, R. D., Dickson | 1940 |
| Duncan, Jack, 300 Center Ave. | 1939 |
| Foster, Gus, Route No. 3 | 1940 |
| Holland, Mrs. V. E., 206 S. Main St. | 1939 |
| Hooper, Mrs. L. Claude, 402 W. Walnut St. | 1938 |
| Hurt, David, 105 Chestnut St. | 1939 |
| Mitchell, Jack, 307 W. Walnut St. | 1939 |
| Morrison, W. P., 304 W. Walnut St. | 1935 |
| White, J. B., Murrell St. | 1938 |

## MURFREESBORO CHAPTER

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|---|---|
| Black, Dr. James B., Director of Health Unit | 1935 |
| Davis, Prof. George, Sta. A, State Teachers College | 1931 |
| Duckworth, Robert, 207 Richardson Ave. | 1939 |
| Golightly, T. J., State Teachers College | 1938 |
| Jones, St. George S. | 1938 |
| Moffitt, Gentry, Route No. 3, McMinnville, Tenn. | 1940 |

## TENNESSEE AT LARGE

| | |
|---|---|
| Allen, Mrs. Juanita, Gatlinburg | 1938 |
| Brown, A. L., Greeneville | 1940 |
| Burelbach, Major M. J., 510 West Fourth St., Chattanooga | 1935 |
| Counce, Howard, Counce, Hardin Co. | 1937 |
| Dyer, Mrs. Minnie M., Byington | 1931 |
| Endsley, Prof. J. R., Freed-Hardeman College, Henderson | 1938 |
| Fowler, E. P., Celina | 1935 |
| Fuller, Mrs. C. E., Fullers Ridge, Route No. 6, Chattanooga | 1936 |
| Hicks, Herbert E., Madisonville | 1939 |
| Knox, Miss Mamie, Milan | 1937 |
| McCanless, Mrs. M. C., Morristown | 1940 |
| Merritt, Dixon, Lebanon, Tenn., FOUNDER | 1915 |
| Moorman, Miss Anne Armstrong, Somerville | 1935 |
| Patten, Mrs. Carter, Route No. 3, Ashland Farm, St. Elmo (1934) | 1940 |
| Reed, Miss Willie Ruth, Route No. 1, Greeneville | 1937 |
| Stupka, Arthur, Park Naturalist, Great Smoky Mts. Park, Gatlinburg | 1935 |
| Upperman, Rev. Harry L., Baxter | 1934 |
| Wilger, Mrs. D., Route No. 6, Cleveland | 1938 |

## CORRESPONDING MEMBERS

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|---|---|
| Austin, Dr. Oliver L., Fairview Ave., Tuckahoe, N. Y. | 1933 |
| Ball, Robert E., 2622 Tuscarawas St. W., Canton, Ohio | 1938 |
| Bent, A. C., 140 High St., Taunton, Mass. | 1933 |
| Bishop, Dr. Louis B., 450 Bradford St., Pasadena, Calif. | 1933 |
| Bond, Miss Lora, Dept. of Botany, Wellesley College, Wellesley, Mass. | 1935 |
| Brecher, Leonard, 1900 Spring Drive, Louisville, Ky. | 1938 |
| Calhoun, John B., Zoology Lab. Northwestern Univ., Evanston, Ill. | 1932 |
| Carpenter, Floyd S., 2402 Longest Ave., Louisville, Ky. | 1935 |
| Chapman, Dr. Frank M., American Museum of Natural History, New York | 1932 |
| Charles, Mrs. G. E., Route No. 1, Box 160, West Columbia, S. C. | 1937 |
| Cook, Miss Fannye A., 646 North St., Jackson, Miss. | 1935 |
| Counce, Dr. Cynthia C., Western State Hospital, Hopkinsville, Ky. | 1931 |
| Crook, Compton, State Teachers College, Towson, Md. | 1927 |
| Curtis, Dr. George M., Kinsman Hall, Ohio State University, Columbus, O. | 1915 |
| Deaderick, Dr. William H., 36 Circle Drive, Hot Springs, Ark. | 1936 |
| Dodge, V. K., 137 Bell Court, West, Lexington Ky. | 1939 |
| Ellis, Ralph, 2420 Ridge Road, Berkeley, Calif. | 1933 |
| Fitz-Gerald, Mrs. Chas. A., Kirkwood, Mo. | 1935 |
| Floyd, Judge Joseph L., Canton, Ohio | 1933 |
| Frazer, Dr. T. Atchison, Marion, Ky. | 1932 |

Frei, F. Everett, 130 S. Green St., Glasgow, Ky.........1939
Goetz, Christian J., 3503 Middleton Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio,
SUSTAINING MEMBER .........1933
Grayson, Miss Marie, Moselle, Miss.........1936
Harris, Mrs. Hugh Henry, "Mockingbird Meadows," Emory University, Ga. 1931
Hitch, Miss Ann, Drew, Miss.........1939
Hobson, Mrs. L. G., 1512 N. Meridian, No. 9, Indianapolis, Ind.........1935
Hoyt, J. Southgate Y., 5 Lewis St., Lexington, Va.........1937
McIlhenny, Edward A., Avery Island, La.........1935
McMahan, Mrs. W. M., 105 S. Georgia Ave., Mobile, Ala.........1940
Maslowski, Karl, 1034 Maycliff Place, Cincinnati, Ohio.........1934
Mayer, Mrs. John H., 103 S. Miller St., Cynthiana, Ky.........1937
Miller, Rev. Percy H., Christ Church, Collinsville, Ill.........1936
Moeran, E. H., 541 Bronx River Road, Yonkers, N. Y.........1940
Monroe, Burt L., Ridge Road, Anchorage, Ky.........1934
Murphy, Robert, Duke University Hospital, Durham, N. C.........1939
Nolon, Mrs. Noxon, 2003 S. Virginia St., Hopkinsville, Ky.........1938
Oldham, M. H., Box 575, Harrisburg, Ark.........1937
Owens, C. M., Route No. 2, Monticello, Ark.........1934
Perkins, Samuel E., 3rd, 709 Inland Bldg., Indianapolis, Ind.........1938
Pettingill, Dr. Olin Sewall, Carleton College, Northfield, Minn.........1939
Plummer, Cameron McR., Spring Hill, Ala.........1936
Richards, Edward C. M., Nur Mahal, Route No. 4, West Chester, Pa. .........1935
Riley, J. H., U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C.........1934
Roberts, Dr. Thos. S., Museum of Nat. History, University of
Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minn.........1935
Saunders, W. E., 352 Clarence St., London, Ontario, Canada.........1931
Schneider, Miss Evelyn J., 2207 Alta Ave., Louisville, Ky.........1935
Slack, Miss Mabel, 1004 Everett Ave., Louisville, Ky.........1934
Steagall, Dr. Mary M., 808 S. Illinois Ave., Carbondale, Ill.........1935
Stoddard, Herbert L., Sherwood Plantation, Thomasville, Ga.........1934
Sturgis, Irvin, 1616 Main St., Lexington, Mo.........1939
Tomkins, Ivan R., U. S. Dredge "Welatka," Savannah, Ga.........1938
Tucker, Mrs. Carll, 733 Park Ave., New York, N. Y.........1938
Vaiden, M. G., Box 248, Rosedale, Miss.........1936
Walker, Mrs. Emily B., E. Texas State Teachers College, Commerce, Tex.....1931
Walker, Miss Mary V., 1414 E. 7th St., Hopkinsville K,y.........1939
Warriner, Benj. R., 407 Waldron St., Corinth, Miss.........1933
Wetmore, Dr. Alexander, U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C.........1937
White, J. S., 2207 Lincolnwood Road, Highland Park, Ill.........1935
Wiles, Dr. H. O., 6038 Dorchester Ave., Chicago, Ill.........1934
Wilson, Dr. Gordon, 1434 Chestnut St., Bowling Green, Ky.........1931
Wright, Miss Audrey A., 1312 Hepburn Ave., Louisville, Ky.........1938
Young, James Boswell, 2516 Talbott Ave., Louisville, Ky.........1938
Yunker, Miss Emilie, 1140 Everett Ave., Louisville, Ky.........1931

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Secretary Clebsch is due a vote of thanks from your Editor for preparing the list,—we both hope it is correct. Please call Mr. Clebsch's attention to any errors. New members added during the year will be published next year. Let's plan a good, steady growth!

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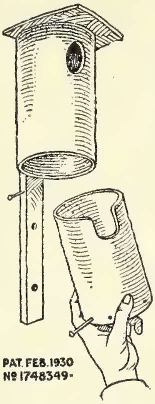

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A Quarterly Journal Devoted to Tennessee Birds

DECEMBER, 1940

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# THE MIGRANT

VOL. XI DECEMBER, 1940 NO. 4

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## Some Values of Bird-Banding

BY HENRY AND DOROTHEA MEYER

One of the aims of bird-banding is to gather information concerning the seasonal distribution and the migration routes of several kinds of birds. This is all too often taken to be the only value of bird-banding studies. If one undertakes a banding project with the hope of rapidly accumulating information concerning this phase of bird study he will find his interest rapidly diminishing for gathering such information is slow work. It involves the coordinated effort of the multitude of cooperators scattered throughout the continent and is not an individual enterprise. As important as the above aim may be, if the only value to be derived from banding studies is obtaining that aim, the majority of banding stations would be discontinued for most human beings (even bird-lovers) lack the patience which is required to carry on with a project when the returns are slow in coming in.

Why, then, do so many stations continue to function? The answer is simple. Operating a banding station brings about a direct contact between the bird and the bird-lover and this creates new enjoyment in bird-study. The new interests become impelling forces, bringing about increased concentration on phases of bird life which otherwise might pass unnoticed. The complementary values become primary factors in obtaining the cooperative aim and in doing so serve the even greater function of adding new information to man's total knowledge of birds, their haunts and habits.

Some of these by-products of banding operations which increased our interest are given below:

*Observation of Plumage Changes.* White-throated Sparrows fed at our feeding and banding stations in the winter of 1938-39. Although the flock was not large, fifty birds were banded. Of these many repeated time and again before leaving this area in mid-April of 1939 for their northern breeding grounds. During the early winter period the individuals of the flock seemed to exhibit a general uniformity of coloration, the crowns appearing more or less dark-brown with ashy streaks in contrast to the conspicuous white and black of the breeding plumage. The white throat patches, too, were indistinct and often seemed to be absent. Fortunately, the small yellow patches (even though dull) at the bends of the wings and before the eyes, were present and thus could be used as criteria for assuring the identifications. Gradually during the months of March and April the ashy streaks became whiter and the dark brown appeared blacker. The throat patches became whiter and the yellow before the eyes became brighter. Before the birds left the area many appeared in complete breeding plumage and in some instances distinct sex dimorphism appeared.

DEC 27 1940

*Constancy of Flock to Winter Feeding Grounds.* The White-throated Sparrows continued to hold our attention in 1940. Of the fifty birds banded in 1938-39, ten were retaken in 1940. The number is not large enough to permit a generalization but perhaps gives some indication of flock constancy. It at least offers an incentive to continue operations with the hope of getting more information concerning the question.

*Sex-ratios Among Song-birds.* Scattered through the ornithological journals quite a number of statements may be found concerning the relative abundance of males and females of individual species. In spite of this, gathering information concerning the question still holds the interest of most bird-banders and it is good that it does for much information is still needed on this subject. It is commonly assumed that a 50% male to 50% female ratio is found among song birds. However, numerous unbalances of this have been recorded. Explanations for the polyandrous and polygamous tendencies of certain species have been explained on disproportionate abundance of the two sexes. Casual field observations may lead to false conclusions concerning relative numbers of males and females present. Continuous banding operations, however, will aid in gaining more accurate figures concerning the question. Seasonal segregation of the sexes cause temporary local variation in the ratios. For example, a count of Red-wings in an area during the early part of the migration season might show very uneven numbers of males and females. In the winter range area the females would predominate at this time; while on the breeding grounds the males would be the more abundant. Sound conclusions concerning sex-ratios can only be reached if each group of birds is studied separately through all seasons of the year.

*Determination of Regional Population.* Making of check lists showing the relative abundance of individual species has long held the attention of field workers. Birds are generally recorded as rare, fairly common, common, or abundant. Just what do these figures mean? A given kind of bird may feed in a yard from day to day. Because one sees the form so often he thinks it is common. But, are they the same birds every day? Or are there several which look so much alike that they can not be distinguished from each other? How abundant is the particular species? What percentage of the total number of birds visiting your yard does this form comprise? Only when each bird is given a distinguishing recognition characteristic (bird-band) do these questions receive accurate answers. In the operation of this banding station it was learned that whereas only a few Cardinals and Towhees seemed to visit our yard on any given day, during our short period of operation 31 Cardinals and 27 Towhees have been banded.

*Behavior Variation.* Questions concerning instinctive and acquired behavior are poorly understood phases of bird study. Many interpretations of avian behavior have been made by ascribing human attributes to birds. Human characteristics such as love, devotion, anger, and fear have been carried over to explain bird habits. This may be a false approach to animal behavior. Ornithologists should be interested in why a bird responds in a given way to a certain set of circumstances, not in how a human would respond under comparable conditions. The success of a form is dependent upon its ability to modify and adjust its behavior advantageously in a changing environment. The ability to do this varies with different species and even with different individuals of the same species. The way of a Mockingbird is not that of a Grackle. The way of a Carolina Wren is not that of a White-throated Sparrow. In spite of human shortcomings in making interpretations of particular behaviors, the observation of them is valuable. An activity which increases the opportunity for making such observations is accordingly of value. Bird-banding does this. Watching birds approach a trap, enter it, and respond to confinement adds information concerning their behavior.

*Development of community interest in bird-life.* Many other values may be derived from banding operations. Among them, one of great importance is the renewal and cultivation of new community interests in bird-life. During the fall of this year Chimney Swift banding was undertaken in this area as an activity of the Knoxville chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society. The cooperative enterprise quickened and revitalized our club to new heights of interest.

Further, one can not operate traps in any location for long without arousing the curiosity of friends and neighbors. They ask, "What are you going to do with the birds?" This offers a chance to introduce information concerning the practical value of birds and methods of attracting and protecting them. Thus you do both the birds and the community a great good. Surely bird-banding is a valuable activity for bird lovers. Why don't you try it?

KNOXVILLE, November, 1940.

# Unusual Methods of Attracting Birds

BY BEN B. COFFEY, JR.

Floyd B. Chapman of Ohio State University writes in the *Wilson Bulletin* (Sept., 1938, p. 203) that on May 6, 1938, he found two pairs of Rough-winged Swallows nesting in the iron overflow pipes of a swimming pool. This was at a Scout camp on a game preserve in Scioto County, Ohio and at the time the pool contained no water. The two pipes were about three inches in diameter and set about four inches apart and flush with the vertical face of the concrete wall. The nests were placed eight inches within the pipes and could be seen readily. The Swallows made repeated trips to the nests while under observation. Mr. Chapman suggests that such valuable mosquito-consuming birds might be encouraged to nest where natural nesting sites have been walled up with stone on stream 'canalization' relief projects, by setting short lengths of iron pipe into the stone walls. We may try this here next season, in a few clay banks or 'cuts' thru which secondary roads pass, where the clay readily erodes. Such situations are usually avoided by the Swallows.

In the same periodical (June, 1938, pp. 139-140) Maurice Brooks states that during the summer of 1937 Mr. John Kee, a farmer in Roane County, West Virginia, showed him a device for studying and photographing Chimney Swifts. Convinced that it was desirable to have these birds about his home Mr. Kee had taken tin coffee cans, open at the top, fastened wires on either side of the cans near the top rim, and suspended them from the chimney, fastening the wires to nails driven in the mortar. In this way the cans could be raised to the top of the chimney, and study and photography were easy. Eighteen had been placed at varying levels in this one chimney, and all were occupied. We plan to provide such nesting sites next spring in the chimney at Palmer Hall, Southwestern, in connection with banding work. We suggest similar action by our other Swift-conscious banding stations. Possibly, small holes should be punched in the bottom of each can.

Odds and ends:—The provision of grit for birds in winter is discussed under a separate title in the Round Table so that it will not be overlooked.——In April we use grey darning thread in our banding traps to attract Baltimore Orioles. A Jay was also caught while appropriating the thread, evidently to line its nest 85 feet above in a sweet gum.——Reading about several instances of window-reflection fighting we placed, one day, a large mirror in a pull-string trap, 2x2x2 feet in size, and later caught a Brown Thrasher, interested in its reflection.——Large numbers of Robins, mostly immature birds, appear on our lawn in July and August. We soon found that an azalea bed in the far corner attracted them. They would dig down into the peat moss—oak sawdust—sand of this specially prepared bed and expose the roots of the azaleas, necessitating a daily inspection to remedy this condition. Quite a bit of peat moss had to be used for replacement. A lone Brown Thrasher would do as much damage as a chicken. In an attempt to divert them a small, shallow pile of peat moss and cottonseed hulls was placed in the middle of the lawn and wetted often. It was frequented to some extent but an attempt to use a large pull string trap over it did not yield any results. We will try this again during an extended dry spell. Since October 9 of this year a covey of about twelve Bob-whites has taken up at 'Coffey Grounds.' Lespedeza and other grains are scattered broadside for them. A high, almost bare corner of the aforementioned azalea bed has a tendency to dry out within the period of a few days and we soon found a large depression there where the Bob-whites were evidently dusting themselves. It was thus necessary to sprinkle the bed frequently. Meanwhile we hope to provide a dusting bed of clay, sand, and peat moss by a patch of cane in another corner.——In past years we have gathered discarded Xmas trees and placed them in a corner against the garage or in similar locations so that the White-throats might use them for roosting. As our own natural cover increases in size the need for them is decreasing. If the Bob-whites are still on hand this Xmas we will probably erect a raised platform on cedar posts and lay the trees across the top and against the sides of it. The tangled clump of the naturalized Hall's Japanese honeysuckle may, however, afford sufficient cover. The fire hazard of such old trees as they dry out, is always kept in mind.

MEMPHIS, November 24, 1940.

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The Wilson Ornithological Club, with which national organization the T.O.S. is affiliated, held their 26th Annual Meeting at Minneapolis on Nov. 22 and 23. Although considerably distant from the membership's geographical center, there was a splendid attendance and a very fine program, thus reflecting the virility of the organization. The 1941 meeting of the W.O.C. will be at the University of Illinois. Meetings of the Inland Bird Banding Association are held in conjunction with the W.O.C. Mrs. Laskey, long a director, is a vice-president of the Association.

# Shelby County Bluebird Housing Project

BY BEN B. COFFEY, JR.

The big four of bird attraction are: the provision of cover, food, water, and protection from enemies. In providing cover we can also go as far as providing 'bird houses' for certain species. Bird house contests with the objective of building a larger and more fanciful house in order to win a prize, result usually in monstrosities that may conform to human ideas of what a house should be but never would attract native birds. Most contests stop with the exhibit of the bird houses and no special attention is given to placing the houses for use by our birds. Proper location is more the exception, if possible, than proper construction. The object of our project was to build the proper type bird boxes and to place them with the idea of having them used by Bluebirds and then to report on the results obtained.

Birds that excavate cavities (woodpeckers) and birds that use old woodpecker holes and natural cavities are naturally those kinds that we should expect to attract more readily to man-made facilities. The removal of dead tree stubs and of dead trees reduces natural sites and the removal of wood fence posts has especially affected the abundance of Bluebirds, one of our most charming roadside species. We have all noted how they use rural mail boxes and similar sites for lack of better ones. Among many reasons for centering the project on the Bluebirds is the fact that it has been well demonstrated at Quincy, Illinois, and Nashville, Tennessee, that their numbers can be increased two and three-fold over a period of years. Now that the severe winter of 1939-40 has adversely affected their occurrence our efforts should continue in this direction.

The project, as conducted in 1939 and in 1940, was really two separate ones with respective prizes: first to build and place Bluebird houses, second (optional) to observe and report on their actual use. The proof of anything is how it works and the second project would also develop an interest in the birds and a habit of purposeful observation. A blue ribbon was awarded each school, represented by any one or more classes or groups as desired, which built and placed a minimum number of twelve Bluebird houses. In meeting this, no one student was to build over three but where large numbers were built this individual limit was waived. For the best report on use of the boxes a school was awarded a copy of Wright's 'Birdcraft' and a subscription to *The Migrant*. Subscriptions were given for the second and third best. For the best popularly written account of the project by an individual student a copy of 'Birdcraft' was awarded.

A mimeographed plan of a standard Bluebird house was sent each school and is still available for the asking. In 1939 it was copied from the plan of Dr. T. E. Musselman of Quincy, who kindly advised us of his experiences. In 1940, based on the findings of Mrs. Amelia R. Laskey at Nashville, the inside floor dimensions were increased to 4x5¼ inches. Houses should be placed on solid posts at a distance of three to four feet above the ground and facing the south or southeast. They should never be placed in trees but may be on the open trunks. One of the good points of this project may be the correction of the common error of placing boxes up haphazardly in trees. It seems to be a hard custom to break. An inspection of one of the school grounds this summer showed that this practice still held sway but most schools, we know, are complying fully with our suggestions. Incidentally, across from this particular school, a long line of fence posts along a truck farm offered ideal locations for several boxes. The boxes should be placed about one every 200 yards since only one pair of Bluebirds will occupy a given territory. The farther from barns and houses the less trouble to be expected from English Sparrows attempting to take possession of the boxes. Many schools are located on Shelby Drive, a 100-mile outer drive thru the county. Several placed their boxes along the Drive and in time we may circle it with Bluebird boxes.

The following schools took part and the large number of boxes built and placed is indicative of the splendid work done by them:

| | 1939 | 1940 | Totals |
|---|---|---|---|
| Bartlett | 44 | | 44 |
| Bolton | | 30 | 30 |
| Capleville | 122 | 225 | 347 |
| Coleman (Raleigh) | 67 | 60 | 127 |
| Cordova | | 12 | 12 |
| Ellendale | | 13 | 13 |
| Forest Hill | | 13 | 13 |
| Frayser | 105 | 190 | 295 |
| Geo. R. James | | 162 | 162 |
| Lucy | | 21 | 21 |
| Millington | | 37 | 37 |
| Oakville | 22 | 23 | 45 |
| Whitehaven | 13 | | 13 |
| M. C. Williams (Germantown) | 27 | 70 | 97 |
| TOTALS | 400 | 856 | 1256 |

A few reports for less than 12 boxes were also received and some others probably went unreported. A very small percentage of the above boxes were, in some cases, designed for other than Bluebird occupancy. The size of the schools vary. Prizes for the best reports on nesting activities were awarded Coleman School in 1939 and Capleville School in 1940. Second and third prizes this season went to M. C. Williams and Geo. R. James Schools, respectively. No popularly written accounts of the project were received but several students were given subscriptions to *The Migrant* for their personal reports.

In 1940 Capleville supplied certain students with a mimeographed report blank and over 100 were turned in. Some interesting information was obtained. It appears, though, that this season was not as good as last year.

The severe and extended winter evidently reduced the number of Bluebirds on hand and delayed nesting activities. Dr. Musselman writes from Quincy that while he normally records 92% occupancy of his boxes for the first nesting and 53% for the second, he had 48% for the first and 23% for the second this season. He attributes the decline to unseasonable weather. For this reason we plan to encourage every effort to make the present boxes available next season and to add still others.

A contribution from the Memphis Chapter to cover the expense makes it possible to send a copy of this issue to the superintendent of schools in every county in the state. We believe similar projects should be carried out. An increase in the number of Bluebirds would have both a practical, economic value and an esthetic appeal. The carrying out of the project has a positive educational and conservational value which is obvious to teachers and other leaders. Some projects have negative values. We were advised last year of a F.F.A. club activity in a neighboring county which awarded merit points for the killing of all sparrows. In addition to the harmful practice done to our beneficial and interesting native sparrows such as the White-throated, Song, Swamp, and Field Sparrows, this ill-advised undertaking produced destructive rather than constructive effort. Our young people need more shrub and tree planting, bird feeding and protection and less 'shot-gun conservation.'

Some interesting facts might have been obtained if we had had someone able to supervise a careful study of a portion of these activities. For those interested in initiating similar projects and wanting to know more about the habits of the Bluebird in Tennessee we can turn to the research of Mrs. Amelia R. Laskey. She briefly discussed her 1939 results in these pages (Dec., 1939, p. 73) but a more complete study is given in a national publication. For the benefit of our readers an abstract of this is included in this issue.

MEMPHIS, November 30, 1940.

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# Laskey: The 1939 Nesting Season of Bluebirds at Nashville, Tennessee

ABSTRACTED BY THE EDITOR

Bluebird boxes were originally placed in Percy Warner Park, a naturalistic park of 2141 acres. Boxes with inside dimensions of 5x5x10 inches were found to be more successful. Those placed at a height of 6 to 7 feet did not prove immune to predation and required a ladder for examination of the nest. So in 1939 boxes were located about 5 feet above the ground. To examine a nest the top was raised slightly and a mirror used to eliminate unnecessary handling. The boxes were in open meadows along paved roads, at least 500 feet apart and not visible one from the other.

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Laskey, Amelia R. 1940. The 1939 Nesting Season of Bluebirds at Nashville, Tennessee. *Wilson Bulletin*, Vol. 52, September. Pp. 183-190.

Visits were made from February 16 thru August, totaling 55 and representing 200 hours in the field. Eighteen boxes were added in late March and April to the 38 already in place. Bluebirds in Tennessee investigate possible nest sites on every mild day in winter and early spring, later defending their chosen territories from other Bluebirds if necessary. Thus only a few of the additional boxes were used during the first period, adversely affecting results when averaged for the totals. The abundance of boxes apparently was responsible for the increasing tendency that season for a few brooding females to move to different boxes between nestings. Bluebirds used 53 of the 56 boxes available, laying 576 eggs (133 sets), an average of 4.3 per set. From these there matured 290 nestlings, or 50.3 per cent of the number of eggs laid. This was 7.3 per cent less than for 1938. Possibly the most important factor in the decrease was the marked contrast in the weather for the two seasons. February and March of 1938 were unusually mild and vegetation was two to three weeks in advance of that in 1939. Nesting activities started earlier, with nest building in February and a set of 4 eggs was being brooded on March 5, 1938. In 1939 nest building did not start until March; the first eggs were laid on March 18. The activities of the Bluebird occupying Box 21, raising three successful broods both years, seem significant. Building of her first nest—Feb. 23, 1938, and March 21, 1939. First egg laid—March 21, 1938, and April 15, 1939. Second set started—April 28, 1938, and June 5, 1939. For the third nesting period, her first egg was laid on June 9, 1938, but July 29, in 1939. In 1938 she laid 14 eggs, 2 being sterile, and raised 12 nestlings. In 1939 she laid 15 eggs, 5 proving sterile, and raised 9 young.

The percentage of success at Nashville (i.e. young raised from the total number of eggs laid) was compared with Quincy, Ill. (T. E. Musselman) and Cape Cod, Mass. (Seth Low). Nashville—57.6 (1938) and 50.3 (1939); Quincy—78.3 (1933), 66.6 (1934), and 67.4 (1935); Cape Cod—86.3 (1932), 64.6 (1933).

Of the total number of eggs laid, 3.7 per cent were sterile, 18.8 per cent (either eggs or nestlings) disappeared from the nest, and 16.5 per cent were deserted. Disappearance included broken eggs and small dead birds removed by parents as well as those taken by predators. Three July broods of hatching birds were devoured by tiny ants. Desertions occurred usually after depredations and disturbances—improvements such as road paving, cats, and casual park visitors. Nest boxes placed at a distance from human habitations are more successful than those in close proximity to house or barn. Bluebirds learn to ignore passing automobiles but seldom adapt themselves to noise and activities around a home as do Mockingbirds, Robins, and Cardinals. They also suffer much interference from House Sparrows which prefer such situations. Around the author's home Bluebirds were numerous when the area was sparsely settled but as rows of houses encroach most of the next boxes now want occupants.

Early nests have a higher percentage of success than those of later periods; the average number of eggs in a set decreases in each subsequent period; the number of entirely unsuccessful nests also increases in later periods. As the season advances there are increasing numbers of predators robbing nests for food; there are more disturbances due to human activities during the summer, causing desertions and disastrously long absences of parents from nests. It is possible that extreme heat affects eggs adversely and also weakens newly hatched chicks.

In 1939 brooding females in 66 per cent of the 134 nesting attempts were identified. There were recaptured 13 that had been banded as adults in the park in previous years,—8 occupying the same boxes in which they had been banded. The occupants of two boxes were using them for the third consecutive year. Nine had been banded as nestlings and 45 were not banded until this year. During the three nesting periods of the season 17 brooding females are known to have used their respective boxes for either two or three nests. A few moved to adjoining locations, usually after an unsuccessful nesting. At the author's home a female banded in April, 1936, was found occupying the same box for her fourth year.

An egg was laid daily and on completion of the set incubation was apparently started, lasting 13 to 14 days. When entire sets were sterile the females incubated 21 days before deserting. Nestlings remained in the boxes 14 to 16 days, usually the latter, when power of flight was well developed.

A comparison with results from four nests which were the only ones found in the park not in boxes, is interesting. The four totalled 18 eggs, 39 per cent successful, yielding 7 young. The 133 sets in boxes totalled 576 eggs, 50.3 per cent successful, maturing 290 nestlings.

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# Barn Owls in the Nashville Area

BY CONRAD JAMISON AND WILLIAM SIMPSON

Barn Owl data in the Nashville area has been quite scarce until recent years. Very few sight records and almost no nesting records were made. A keen interest in Barn Owls was created in the writers by Jack Calhoun's 1938 Christmas Census record of a Barn Owl in Bellemeade. This roosting site found by Jack was investigated the following spring (see *The Migrant*, 1939, pp. 76-77). The female and three young birds were banded. One of the young birds, No. 39-720179 was reported 'found' in Foley, Alabama on Feb. 12, 1940.

A Barn Owl was flushed from the Bellemeade site on the 1939 Christmas census. On Feb. 22, 1940, an adult male Barn Owl was captured in the tree, but he escaped unbanded. On March 31, 1940, the adult female banded the previous year was found brooding two eggs, one of which was misshapen. The eggs were found deserted on April 14, 1940. A negro boy reported that one of the adult birds had been killed by a falling limb earlier in the spring.

A nesting site was found on Woodmont Boulevard Dec. 3, 1939 (see *The Migrant*, Dec. 1939). The young were still in the nest on Jan. 17, 1940. Their plumage appeared to be complete then. On March 31, 1940, two adults were found in the nesting cavity. The female escaped, but the male was caught and banded. There were three eggs, one of which was very small. One of the others had a very thin shell and had been cracked. Both adults were caught in the cavity on April 9. The male was the same bird caught on the previous visit, and the female was the one banded in December. The male was brooding six eggs. On the 5th of May, three deserted eggs were found. An unbanded female was in the cavity. After the bird had been banded, the deserted eggs were examined and found to be infertile.

Three new eggs were found in the Woodmont nesting site on May 21, 1940, and one newly hatched young and five eggs were found on July 2. The adult that was banded on May 5 was captured on July 8. Four nestlings of varying sizes and two eggs were in the cavity then. The two larger young birds were taken for hand raising. The two remaining young were banded on July 25. On a later trip to the tree, Sept. 8, the female was seen in the cavity.

While on a trip on April 14, 1940, out the River Road about twenty miles from Nashville, a pair of Barn Owls flushed from a cavity about fifteen feet up in a living hackberry. The cavity, about one and a half feet in diameter and four feet deep, contained five eggs. On the 21st of May, the nest contained five young all about the same size. However, on June 15, the nest was empty. A later visit on July 28 showed that the cavity had not been used since by the adults.

Several sight records of Barn Owls have been established in this area. On August 15, 1939, Mrs. Laskey found a dead Barn Owl on Abbott Road near Hillsboro Road. Dec. 30, 1939, Jack Calhoun saw a Barn Owl perched in a woodland at Harding Road and Bosley Spring Road. Careful search revealed no nesting or roosting sites. Two young Barn Owls were found dead Feb. 11, 1940, in a hollow tree near Goodlettsville, Tenn. Later investigation proved that the adults had been shot. The site has not been occupied by this species since. Another one was seen perched in a tree on March 16, 1940, in a roosting area occupied by many thousands of Grackles, Robins, Starlings, and Cowbirds. In late April a good many droppings and some pellets were found around a large tree in the front yard of Edenwold dairy on Gallatin Road. The cavity was inaccessible. A negro employee at the dairy reported, however, that large "white" owls occupied the tree.

Each of the writers took one of the young owls taken from the Woodmont nesting cavity for hand raising. Both owls were raised successfully and can now fly quite well. They wander around at night but always return to their favorite roosting perches in the day time.

Contents of the nests and lots of pellets show that the Barn Owls only ate birds very much when the ground was covered with snow. Their food at all other times consisted almost entirely of small mammals, mostly moles.

The various nests found were, for the most part, unsuccessful. This was caused by infertility of the eggs in one case, human interference in another, accidental death of a parent in another, and unknown causes in still another.

NASHVILLE, September, 1940.

# Tall Tales About Eagles

By Albert F. Ganier

"I know not how the truth may be;
I tell the tale as 'twas told to me."

The possibility of having first-hand experiences with such rare birds as are eagles in Tennessee, is so remote that one must necessarily rely upon others—usually the uninitiated—for the stories about them that occasionally come to hand. So, in contemplating the 'tall tales' that arise from their sporadic occurrence, we must consider the source and take with the proverbial grain of salt those that have not been checked. Our Editor has issued a call, however, and since through the years I have gathered some of these stories, I will relate them here for what they may be worth.

Local correspondents of the newspapers are always keen for the sensational and may be relied upon to give their 'stories' the benefit of any sensational doubt that may be hanging in the balance. So, when on April 13, 1935, a Nashville paper carried the following prominent heading, "Huge Eagle, Attacking Boy 8, Is Slain by Victim's Brother," the writer decided to get to the bottom of the matter. The story, which came from Lynchburg, Tennessee, carried a picture of the dead bird which "had gone into a death struggle with two small brothers—and lost." The story went on to say that "the bird was beaten to death by fifteen-year-old Floyd Tipps, who found it clawing and biting his small brother Charlie, eight, and attempting, the boy said, to fly away with him."........"The older boy said the two were in a thicket, in the hilly section near his home, when he heard his brother's scream. He rushed to his aid, to find the eagle, his talons transfixing the boy's arms, biting him about the neck and attempting, he said, to drag him away. The eagle was reported to have a mate larger than itself in the vicinity, and families in that section of Moore county are keeping their children indoors for fear it might attack them too." The day was Saturday, so the next day being available, the writer decided to make a visit to the scene. Arriving in the rough, thinly settled little community, I found a group of neighbors gathered about a copy of the newspaper that someone had gotten to them. The Tipps boys were in the group and like the others they were learning a great many 'facts' about their experience that they had not known about before. Charlie's "badly lacerated" right arm bore a small rag about the wrist and he stopped his marble game and came with Floyd to give me the facts first-hand. The boys, it seems, were looking over the thicket-covered hillside pasture for calves when one of them saw the eagle trotting along through the thicket trying to find an open place from which it could take wing. Presumably the bird had chased a rabbit into the bush. A fence soon blocked further retreat, and the smaller boy, anxious to capture it, ran forward and seized the bird, not realizing its strength. The eagle returned the grasp with interest, sinking its sharp talons into the boy's knee and forearm, even as a hawk would have done under the circumstances. The older boy rushed forward with a stick and clubbed it to death. Unfortunately, the Associated Press sent out the story and it appeared in newspapers all over the country. The writer reported the true facts to the National Association of Aubudon Societies for such correction as might then be possible.

It was only a short time after this that a dispatch was sent out to the press, with a Minnesota date line, in which it was claimed that an eagle had swooped down and carried away a small child that was sleeping in a cradle in the yard. The Audubon Society immediately investigated and found that the child was well and hearty and that the story was pure fiction. Returning to Tennessee, I have a news-clipping dated Bristol, September 22, 1924, headed "Eagle Attacks Child near Bristol," in which it was averred that the "large eagle was wounded and captured after attacking and trying to carry off a five-year-old boy. The bird was shot by John Blevins, farmer, after he heard the child screaming in a field near the Blevins' home. The child was not hurt, but Blevins was severely scratched about the head when he seized the bird after it had fallen to the ground." No information could be secured later, but on the face of the statements it is ridiculous, for if the eagle had "attacked and tried to carry off" the child, the latter would not have been referred to as "not hurt."

'Tis a poor rule that doesn't work both ways; so, turning from eagles trying to capture boys, perhaps it will be refreshing to read a dispatch headed "Eagles Captured by Little Boy," dated Lebanon, Tennessee, December 29, 1923. This one goes on to say that ten-year-old Robert Vance had, within a few weeks, caught six eagles in steel traps on a hill on his father's farm. "The boy," read the dispatch, "secured the trap to the top of a stump and baited it with dead hens. The eagles would always attack the boy when one of them was caught, but he pluckily fought them off and captured them one at a time. Only two of them were killed." Here, at least, it is acknowledged that the eagles are the real victims.

Lawson Fisher, of Fall Creek falls in Van Buren County, bears witness to the fact that sometimes eagles attack grown men. Spending the night at the home of this old mountaineer, years ago, I asked him for the history of a wing and foot of a Golden Eagle that was nailed above his mantle. "Well sir," he said, "I was down in the gulf one day in the early fall, when I heerd a passel of turkeys up on the rim. I 'lowed I could git one if I could crawl up through the gap to where they wuz if they didn't see me, so up I started. When I got near the top, I was goin' along on my hands and knees under the brush, jest like a groundhog, I reckon, and all of a sudden a black shadow made me turn over and look up. Thar, right above me was a spread eagle, puttin' on the brakes for all he was worth, seein' I wasn't no groundhog after all, but befo' he could git goin' agin, I jest let him have it and thar's that foot and wing to prove it." In Bent's "Life Histories of North American Birds," almost an exact counterpart of this incident is recorded.

Eagles like to catch their feathered quarry on the wing, so Fisher told me, and he should know, for he had been a lifetime hunter in that rugged region. "You see," he said, "when Mr. Eagle wants a nice young turkey, he drives them toward the edge of the cliffs by liten' around in the trees in back of 'em. Then when he gits a young un close enough to the edge, he gits right down on the ground and tries to make him fly off. If the young turkey acts like he don't wanter fly across the cove, Mr. Eagle keeps on crowdin' and nudgin' him with his wing and finally there ain't nuthin for the turkey to do but start out. That's all Mr. Eagle wants, and he lights right out after him, grabs him by the shoulders as they sail along and carries him on off to his regular eatin' place."

It seems, however, that eagles don't always try to dine off small boys and young turkeys. Just listen to this. "Sparta, Tennessee, May 9, 1930—R. Hale has just killed a large Bald Eagle which measured six feet six inches from tip to tip. When it came into view, it was seen to be carrying a full grown cat in its claws." Considering the reputation of the average pussy, the editor should have briefly headed this dispatch, 'Retribution.'

The best authorities give the wing-spread of a mature eagle as about seven feet and its weight as ten to twelve pounds. Up in the Smokies, however, where the mountains are big, the eagles seem to 'take after' them too. A dispatch from Knoxville, dated March 28, 1921, states that Jim Whitson of the Blue Knob section, after having lost a number of pigs and half-grown lambs, finally bagged "the white-headed marauder" which was found to weigh sixty pounds and to have a wing-spread of eleven feet. The writer ventures to suggest that this must have been a roc-eagle hybrid.

An eagle that apparently thought he was about that size, once decided to capture a boy and a mule for breakfast—at least circumstantial evidence pointed in that direction. The writer is a little embarrassed to admit that he and not some newspaper is responsible for the details of this story. Early on the morning of March 19, 1934, a boy of fifteen was riding a mule along the road that goes under the trees along the shore of Radnor Lake, near Nashville. There was light snow on the ground and wet sleet was freezing as it fell. The boy, so he told me a few hours afterwards, was surprised by the eagle flying down from behind and alighting on the mule's back behind him. The startled mule promptly bucked both 'passengers' over his head and left for parts unknown. The dog which was following, then pounced upon the bird and killed it. The boy and his brother brought me the specimen for identification, and it was found to be an immature of the Bald species. The simple country boy told his story in a straightforward way, and I could find no grounds for doubting it. There were 'mitigating circumstances,' however, in this case, which seem to point to a probable explanation. The boy who was on the mule said that when the bird was killed, it had sleet and ice frozen to its feathers. Likely the bird had roosted during the night in the tree above the road and finding its feathers frozen and its appetite sharpened from the chill north wind, spontaneously reacted to attack the first living thing that came by. The bird may previously have become wet on the lake in an effort to catch a fish or one of a large assemblage of ducks.

There are several instances that have been reported of eagles having been incapacitated by ice forming upon their feathers. One of these was told to Mrs. Ben B. Coffey by A. O. English of Norfolk, Virginia, who came upon an eagle in such a predicament perched in a tree. Mr. English was able to climb to the bird's perch, lower it to the ground, and take it home to thaw it out.

Pilot Knob, thirteen miles south of Murfreesboro, on the Manchester pike, has for many years been the rendezvous of Golden Eagles and here on February 4, 1935, Quentin Summers trapped a specimen which he stated to me later had a spread of seven feet and a weight of nearly thirteen pounds. I visited Summers a few weeks later, and found him to be a substantial farmer of about fifty and quite careful as to his statements. He was unwilling to let me take the bird to release it elsewhere, for fear it would return and cause further depredations upon the goats which ranged the high knobs about. The year before, he stated, a pair of these birds had killed about forty kids, sometimes killing more than they could eat. Some were left on the ground, talon-pierced, and on occasions he had found the remains hanging in a large dead chestnut tree near the top of the knob. He stated that he had seen them chase colts and calves down the hill, perhaps in a spirit of playfulness, just as a Duck Hawk will swoop at a Turkey Vulture. Summers related to me one of the 'tallest' eagle tales that I had yet heard and, referring the reader again to the opening quotation of these notes, I will relate it here.

One morning he saw the goats scampering down the hill as usual after being marauded, so snatching up his gun, he made his way rapidly toward the summit, hoping to find the eagle on the ground with its kill. As he neared the top, he heard the bleating of a kid far above. He hurried up and on reaching the summit he looked about, but the bleating still came from above. Scanning the sky, he was astounded to see the eagle winging away and carrying the kid, by the shoulders, in its talons.

It should not be inferred from the light tone of this article that extending legal protection to eagles is being overlooked. Tennessee laws do not permit killing them—unless it is proven that they are destroying farmstock. Therein of course lies a large loophole. Killers have been warned or hailed into court and live birds regularly confiscated. The word has been passed around, it would seem, for there are fewer reports of farmers bringing the birds to town or else eagles are of less frequent occurrence in recent years. To an earlier issue of *The Migrant*, June, 1932, the writer contributed an article entitled "Facts about Eagles in Tennessee" which gave considerable substantial information about both species. He will be glad to furnish separates of that article to any who may be further interested.

NASHVILLE, November, 1940.

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BLACKBIRDS DO GOOD DEED:—This was the heading of a small United Press dispatch in the *Memphis Commercial Appeal* of August 7, 1939. We quote: "Oroville, Calif.—The seagulls that saved early Utah settlers from possible starvation by halting a cricket invasion have had a counterpart here on a 20-acre olive orchard. The orchard was being invaded by a horde of grasshoppers that threatened its destruction, when thousands of blackbirds lay to with a hearty good will—and appetite. When the birds finally left there was hardly a hopper to be found."

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Albert J. Marsh has been appointed Game Technician with the Game and Fish Division, State Department of Conservation, with headquarters at Nashville. Mr. Marsh, who is a T.O.S. member, has been engaged in similar work with the U. S. Soil Conservation Service at Humboldt. He succeeds Val Solyom.

# THE SEASON

MEMPHIS AREA:—On the fall field day, Nov. 3, at Shelby Forest, several flocks of Double-crested Cormorants, totaling 1,000, were seen along the river by Burdick and party; 26 gulls were seen at a distance. About 3,000 Tree Swallows were recorded. At Piersol Lake 2 Phoebes were seen by the writer.——The first White-throats appeared in our yard Oct. 9 while Burdick reports 3 White-crowns on Oct. 7 and a Song Sparrow on Oct. 6 on the Galloway golf course. Burdick and Mason recorded a Leconte's Sparrow on Nov. 10 and 4 were found in the same field near Mason's home by our party on Dec. 1. A visit to last season's 'Lapit' territory north of the Big Ditch canal on Nov. 17 yielded 4 Prairie Horned Larks, 5 American Pipits, 1 Lapland Longspur, and 1 Leconte's Sparrow. Burdick recorded 30 Pipits at the Municipal Airport, Nov. 10 and 1 Longspur at Mason's, Nov. 29. Mason reported 5 Pipits and 5 Vesper Sparrows on Nov. 28 and we saw 9 Prairie Horned Larks there on Dec. 1. On Nov. 24 in Overton Park we saw 2 Chipping Sparrows (late) and enjoyed close association with 5 to 6 Ruby-crowned Kinglets. A Nashville Warbler found downtown, Oct. 3, had evidently met death that morning.——At Mud Lake on Oct. 6 Burdick recorded a Caspian Tern, one Virginia Rail (seen at 12 feet) and 2 Northern Water-thrushes. The lake dried up early in the fall and very few trips were made there.—BEN COFFEY, Memphis.

NASHVILLE AREA:—On a trip to Radnor Lake, Nov. 3, birds were found to be scarce. The lake was low, clear, and very smooth. We listed: Pied-billed Grebe, 6; Mallard, 1 male; Coot, 1; L. Scaup, 2 males; Kingfisher, 2; and Killdeer, 10. Land birds were no more numerous. Nov. 17 was a new early fall date for the Old-squaw while a Loon was seen on Nov. 26. On Nov. 13 and 26 Redheads and Canvas-backs were recorded; the former species is very rare here. On the afternoon of Dec. 4 we listed 126 ducks of 8 species. Flocks of birds, even of Starlings, are very scarce,——no Robins.—H. C. MONK, Nashville.

CLARKSVILLE AREA:—On Oct. 8 a Pied-billed Grebe landed on a city street, misled, no doubt, by the reflection from a street light. Being unable to take off from the surface, it was captured and taken to the T.O.S. meeting. Next morning it was banded and released from the Red River bridge. The first White-throat of the season was trapped Oct. 9.—MRS. JOHN Y. HUTCHISON, Clarksville.

KNOXVILLE AREA:—The most outstanding news of the fall season is the number of American Bitterns that have been reported to Mr. Ijams, our local bird authority. We have had reports on 5 or 6 birds; 2 of them had been wounded. Again this year a Pied-billed Grebe was found alongside a road. The Grebe evidently thought the asphalt surface of the road was a stream, and once down on land it was unable to take wing. The bird was brought to Mr. Ijams at the News-Sentinel, identified and then released on the river.——We failed to find any unusual warbler migration this fall, but

Mr. Stupka told me of a very nice flock of Palm Warblers in the Smoky Mountain Park in early November.——The duck situation on Norris Lake is a delicate subject because of the various reports; there are very few ducks according to the hunters. Both Blue-winged and Green-winged Teal arrived in mid-September altho in small numbers. Coots, numbering 1000 to 2000, were on the lake the week-ends of Oct. 27 and Nov. 3. Also at that time a flock of about 200 Canada Geese stayed around Norris Dam and the immediate vicinity. No ducks are present in large numbers at the time of this writing (Nov. 30) Black Ducks outnumber Mallards by about 2 or 3 to 1. Hooded Mergansers, Golden-eyes, and Baldpates have been seen in small flocks and a few Double-crested Cormorants were on the lake in the early fall. A Loon and a Black-crowned Night Heron were reported present on November 17.——Wood Ducks were rather plentiful, for this species, along the river in the early fall but are rather scarce now.—W. M. WALKER, Knoxville.

# WITH OUR BANDERS

MEMPHIS:—Only two substations are now operated for me. These are by Austin Burdick, Jr. and Joe Mason, Jr. Both suspended during the summer but resumed when the White-crowned Sparrows arrived this fall. Like McPherson at Germantown (1934-35) this is their most common winter species, although it is rare to uncommon in this area as a whole. Only 5 returns from last year's birds have been recorded as yet.—Work at the home station was spasmodic during the summer and traps were left open for a period after Oct. 10 account of a covey of Bob-whites. These powerful birds can almost scalp themselves by flying up against the wire top of a trap. Regular Bob-white traps have a protective cloth suspended from the top. Seven of the covey of about 12 were banded and several repeated. Feed was scattered broadside so that they would stay away and trapping resumed in November. ——Bronzed Grackle 37-312507, caught on a dark and stormy night in the Lakeview, Miss. roost, Mar. 13, 1937, was shot about June 15, 1940, at Bashaw, Alberta. This is our 6th Canadian province and is the record distance—about 1625 miles—for a bird banded at or near Memphis.—BEN COFFEY, Dec. 2, 1940.

PULASKI:—Mrs. Sarah O. Rogers writes that she has not operated her traps since June but hopes to resume banding soon. She has been very successful with Grackles and Starlings.

NASHVILLE:—Mrs. Amelia R. Laskey regrets her inability to send a report at this time. Since her station is one of the leading stations in the country in the number of species and individuals banded and the amount of research work done, we can appreciate just how busy she must be. Our readers are, of course, familiar with her fine work thru her interesting contributions to *The Migrant* and other journals. Large numbers of Chimney Swifts were banded this fall and hundreds of returns from the last two years were taken.

CLARKSVILLE:—Banding was slow during the late summer but of special interest were: a Nashville Warbler on Sept. 21; Olive-backed Thrush, Sept. 28 and Oct. 3; Lincoln's Sparrow, Oct. 3. Our first return-2 was a White-throated Sparrow banded Oct. 26, 1938, returned Oct. 16, 1939, and Oct.

13, 1940. Banded Juncos, Song, White-throated and White-crowned Sparrows are seen at the bird bath each day and we hope to take some of them soon. ——No Swift banding was done this fall but plans are being made for next spring. Recoveries of our Swifts have been reported from Texas, Mo., Minn., Wis., Ill., Ohio, Ky., Tenn., and one from *Nova Scotia.*——From our start on March 11, 1938, to June 28, 1940, we have banded 7,765 Chimney Swifts and 2,291 birds of 58 other species for a total of 10,057 at Clarksville.——A Robin banded here Nov. 6, 1939, was found dead Mar. 12, 1940, at League City, Texas.—MRS. JOHN Y. HUTCHISON, Clarksville, Nov. 28, 1940.

KNOXVILLE:—Our first Chimney Swift banding highlighted the fall season. On Oct. 5 on the University of Tennessee Y.M.C.A. building we banded 1299 and on Oct. 13 on the News-Sentinel Building about 695. Nine or ten recoveries were made of 'foreign' birds, principally from '38 and '39 bandings in Ohio. Banding at the home stations of Dr. Henry G. Meyer and Mr. Wm. M. Johnson continues of interest.—ARTHUR MCMURRAY, 1105 White Ave., Knoxville.

NOTE: In our first Swift trapping at Memphis (1932) we examined 1300 birds without finding a banded one. In recent years more banded Swifts are at large but the good results above indicate that Knoxville is strategically located and we hope that our members there will have every success. With our state located athwart the northeast-southwest and the Mississippi valley routes and regular Swift banding at Clarksville, Knoxville, Memphis, and Nashville, many interesting results should be obtained.—EDITOR.

GREENEVILLE:—Banding was begun in Greeneville on March 16, 1940. Three traps are used on the lawn and one in the woods a quarter-mile distant. False-bottom and 2-cell Potter traps are used. These are operated chiefly on week-ends. 100 individuals of 16 species have been banded. More White-crowned Sparrows have been banded than any other species. Of 14 White-crowned Sparrows banded last spring, 4 returns were taken in October and November. Of 19 additional White-crowned Sparrows captured this fall, 16 have been immature individuals. The behavior of one Titmouse was interesting. On April 14 within a two-hour period this bird was taken at two traps a quarter of a mile apart. A week later it was again taken at both traps on the same day. By May it had apparently settled in the vicinity of one trap, that nearest the woods.—WILLIE RUTH REED, Greeneville.

CINCINNATI, OHIO:—For this issue we are temporarily adopting one of our sustaining members, Mr. Christian J. Goetz. Veteran banders know how rare it is to trap a banded bird from some other cooperator, especially in the vast inland region. The following data on Bronzed Grackles will indicate our reasons for considering Mr. Goetz really one of us.

| Band No. | Date Banded | Place | Date Recaptured | Place |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 34-300373 | May 24, 1935, | Cinc'y | Feb. 21, 1937 | Pulaski |
| | Mar. 31, 1938 | Cinc'y | Feb. 19, 1940 | Pulaski |
| 34-353425 | Feb. 27, 1935 | Memphis | May 21, 1939 | Cinc'y |

A Cape May Warbler, 35-25710, banded Sept. 12, 1937 at Elmhurst, L. I., N. Y., by Mrs. Marie V. Beals, was caught by a cat at Cleveland, Tenn., about Oct. 15, 1937. From *Bird-Banding Notes*, Sept., 1938, issued by the Bureau of Biological Survey (now Fish and Wildlife Service).

# THE ROUND TABLE

ANOTHER TALL TALE:—As a further evidence of the readiness with which our feathered hunters of prey are readily damned by some of the human killers of prey, based only on pre-formed prejudices and exaggerated hearsay, we quote the following excerpt from the hunting and fishing column of Paul Fairleigh in the Memphis Press-Scimitar of January 16, 1940:

"WHAT DOES HAWK SAY?"

"Fishing and hunting yarns always improve with the telling........at least they often gain in size.

"The other day Attorney John Coates went out to his farm east of Memphis and found a hawk sitting on a fence. When Coates approached the hawk the bird hopped down on the ground and came up to his feet. Coates says he stroked the bird across the back and the hawk showed no alarm at his presence.

"Believing the hawk to be someone's pet, Coates let the bird go. Back in Memphis, he told of his experience and the story started the rounds.

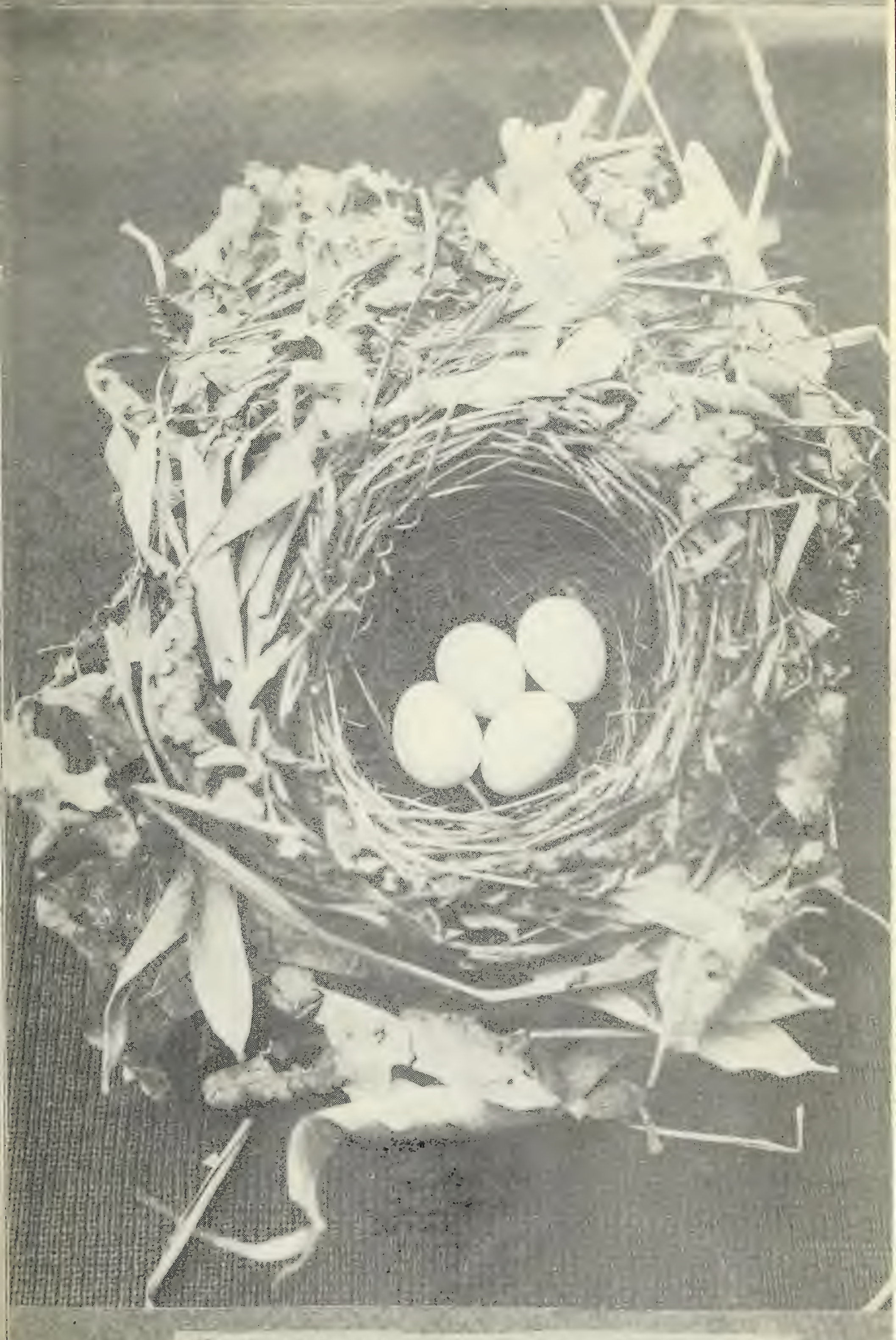
"A few hours later another sportsman called the conductor of this column to tell him all about a hawk that flew out of some bushes and attacked Sportsman Coates.

"Another call told of how Coates had suffered in a hand-to-hand encounter with a large bird which was believed to be a cross between an eagle and a hawk.

"Coates asked us to relate the true story before someone has him devoured by the bird."—BEN B. COFFEY, JR., Memphis.

GRIT FOR BIRDS IN WINTER:—In *Horticulture* for Dec. 1, 1939, (p. 495), a letter from Geo. H. Crosbie of Boston, Mass. in relation to this subject states, "When the ground is frozen or there is snow it is almost impossible for them to get (gravel)........I have found birds as large as Crows dead in the woods with their crops full of food but nothing to grind it with. I use ordinary sand such as they find in the streets in summer. They use almost as much grit as they do food." While our more open winters do not make this item as important as farther north, still it is worthy of consideration. Early last spring numerous blackbirds were found dead for no apparent reason in Overton Park. Mr. J. E. Jolly dissected them and believes a lack of grit may have been the cause. However, there had been no ice or snow or frozen ground. We were unable to arrange for an examination for poison. The birds included Grackles and Starlings which feed in town and country and Red-wings and Cowbirds which feed in the country only. Reports of large numbers of blackbirds dying at Barksdale Field, La. were published in newspapers but no cause was given.——In our yard there has usually been a pile of sand for gardening work. We have never noticed any use by the birds. Perhaps grit is readily available in other forms.—BEN B. COFFEY, JR., Memphis.

OUR ILLUSTRATIONS: On the opposite page is shown a picture of the nest and eggs of Swainson's Warbler found near Clarksville, Tenn. on May 30, 1940, and described elsewhere. Photo of about 70 of our members who attended the T.O.S. 25th Anniversary Meeting at Nashville on Oct. 19-20, 1940. The photo was taken at Idlewild Wood on Stone's River, by Wiles, Nashville. On the last page is a portrait of a Sparrow Hawk that had been raised as a pet by Harry P. Ijams of Knoxville who kindly furnished the photo.

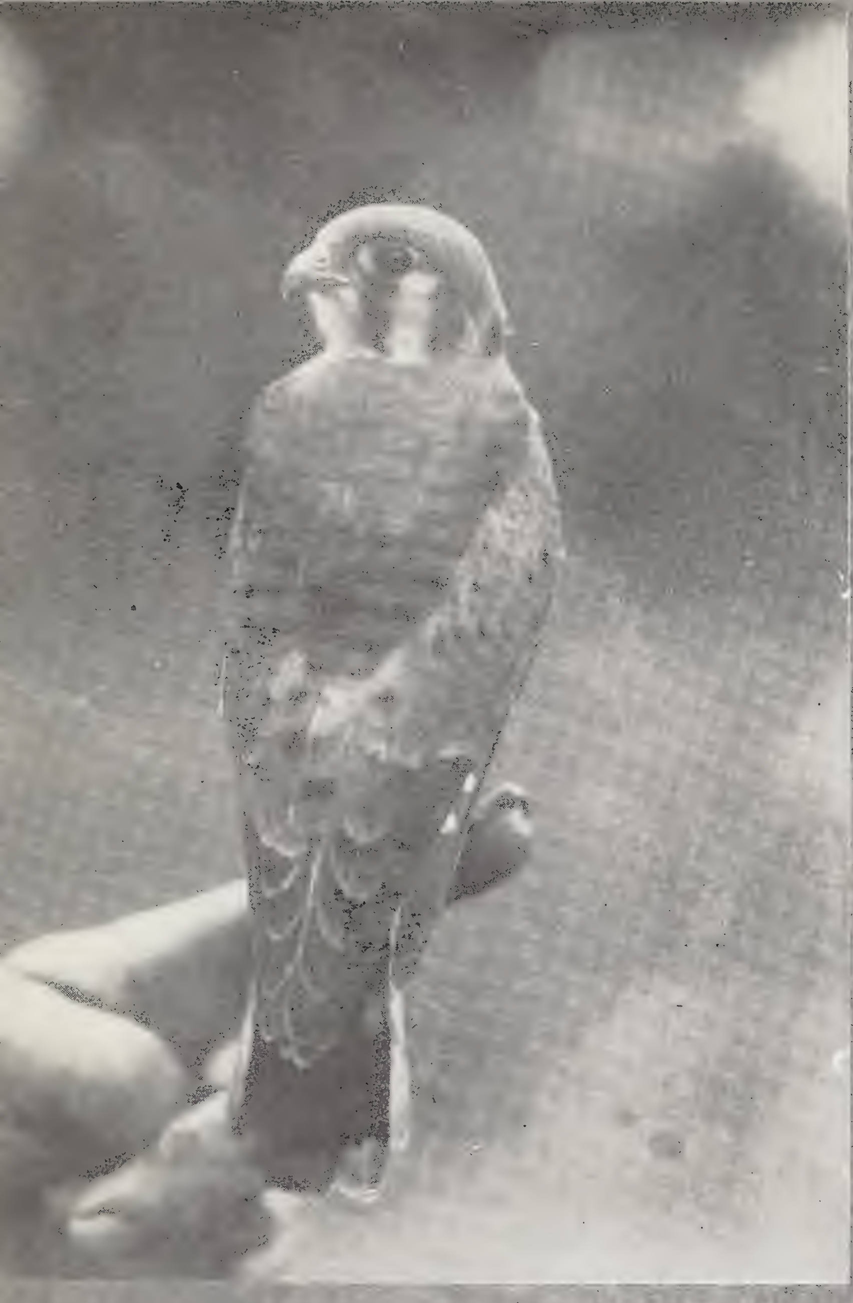


Nest and eggs of Swainson's Warbler

25th Anniversary Meeting,
Nashville,

essee Ornithological Society.
Oct. 19-20, 1940

25th Anniversary Meeting, Tennessee Ornithological Society.
Nashville, Tenn. Oct. 19-20, 1940



A tame Sparrow Hawk

**NESTING OF SWAINSON'S WARBLER IN MIDDLE TENNESSEE:**—For many years the writer has sought to find this rare warbler (*Limnothlypis swainsoni*) as a summer resident in likely place in Middle Tennessee but without success. From the experience of observers in other states it was known to prefer wet woodlands and wooded swamps where there would be found a growth of cane or thick vines in which to build its nest. The few such habitats as were still in existence, along the Cumberland River near Nashville, were searched but neither birds nor nests could be found.

On April 28 of the present year Alfred Clebsch, of Clarksville, was making one of his periodic visits to Mark's Slough, 6 miles southeast of that city, searching especially for that species when he heard a strange warbler song and stopped to investigate. Within a few minutes he and Jimmy Ridgway, who was with him, succeeded in getting a view of the bird and he readily identified it as a Swainson's Warbler. He wrote me of his find and very kindly invited me to come over at a later date and try to find a nest. This slough, which covers 25 or 30 acres, lies along the base of the river bluff and is separated from the Cumberland River by higher and open ground. The deeper parts of the slough are completely covered with buttonbushes and the shallower margins, from which the water recedes in summer, are grown with wild rose, willows, and some cane. A railroad runs along the bluff side and here at the foot of its embankment and near a freshwater spring the bird was seen.

On May 19 the writer joined Mr. Clebsch and others from Clarksville with a view of making a systematic search and within an hour the writer succeeded in finding a nearly completed nest of the sought-for bird. This nest was at the foot of the embankment, 100 feet from the spring and near the water in the slough. One bird was later seen to carry nest material to it. Midway to the spring a nest of the Hooded Warbler was found in a patch of cane; it contained 3 eggs of the owner and 2 of the Cowbird. Close to it and also in cane, was what appeared to be a last year's nest of a Swainson's.

Returning to the locality on May 30 with Mr. Clebsch and Clarence Collier, we found the parent Swainson's Warbler sitting on the nest. She permitted an approach to within a few feet, then slipped off, exposing 4 fresh eggs. These were pure white without markings. My camera was set on a tripod, with thread running from the shutter in order to permit a photograph when the bird returned. A half hour later the bird was again found sitting and a picture was made. The nest was built 4 feet above the ground in a thick tangle of blackberry briars. The briars terminated a foot above the nest and there formed a dense canopy of leaves which screened it from above. The nest itself was quite different from that of any other bird and bulkier than that of any other warbler. It consisted of a large sub-structure of cane, water maple and water oak leaves, and was 8" long by 5" wide and 4" deep. In this mass, a cup for the eggs was formed, 2 1/4" wide by 2" deep, lined with grass stems and a few bristles. A photo of the nest and eggs is shown on another page.

We spent some hours on May 19 and May 30 searching for more of their nests but none were found. We did, however, locate a single bird on May 19, evidently of another pair, since it was a quarter-mile westward. This bird was inconspicuously feeding on the ground near the water's edge and continued to do so while others of our group came up and leisurely watched it at 25 feet. The cinnamon-crown, the light buffy line over the eye and the back of a uniform brown, were plainly to be seen. In feeding, the bird would pick up the leaves and toss them aside, then look for food beneath. This was done with the beak; it did not scratch with its feet.

On June 9 I found a new but empty nest of this warbler at the Chapmansboro swamp, about 15 miles eastward and also in the Cumberland River bottoms. This swamp is almost an exact counterpart of Mark's slough and here also the nest was in the tangle at the foot of the railroad embankment. Altho there were patches of cane here and some of blackberry briars, too, this nest was built 5 feet up in a thick mass of vines. A small leaf that had fallen into it gave notice that the nest had been abandoned. A snake may have taken the eggs. When visited two weeks later the nest was still empty so it was collected. It was an exact duplicate of the one first described except that the exterior was composed entirely of dry water maple leaves to which the long stems were still attached. Further search was made here for other nests but none were found.—Albert F. Ganier, Nashville.

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NOTES FROM KNOXVILLE:—On Sunday, Nov. 17, 1940, we took our expected trip to Carleton Lake, which is between Alcoa and Louisville, Tenn. We passed the airport and saw three of the large aluminum birds headed for England and then in about a mile we stopped at the first pond which was made by a dam across a spring branch. The pond is about two acres with quite an area of shallow water. The weather was just at freezing and we did not see many of the wading birds. A single Killdeer walked just in front of us. There was one Blue-winged Teal on this pond. Further down the same valley is an area that should have had several Snipe but we could not get into it as part of the water was too deep.——At the lake, Mr. Coker told us that several ducks had been spending the night there but of course, they had gone when we arrived. At the lower end of the lake there is an area of about ten acres that is swampy and the young men of the party finally worked out into it. They flushed a Wilson's Snipe and then there was a sight seldom seen here—six Woodcocks went up. There are so few marshy places left that we seldom are able to see either the Snipe or the Woodcock.——A single flock of about 15 Cedar Waxwings passed over us with their whistle going, causing us to look up. A single Red-wing was there while Crows were over the whole place. A Marsh Hawk wheeled over a wheat field and startled a flock of about ten Doves which left in a hurry. This lake is to be flooded about three feet when the Fort Loudon Dam is in and there should be some excellent swampy ground around the edges.——We also saw the following: Turkey Vulture, 1; Kingfisher, 2; Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 1; Flicker, 3; Titmouse, Chickadee, Mockingbird and Bluebird, 1 each; Myrtle Warbler, 2; Meadowlark, 1; Goldfinch, 15; White-throated Sparrow, 12; Field Sparrow, 1; Song Sparrow, 30; Swamp Sparrow, 1; Towhee, 1; Cardinal, 2; Migrant Shrike, 1.

On October 20, a boy in Union County brought down a large duck (?) with a rifle and then got scared. It was brought in to Mr. Ijams and he turned it over to me to try to get it back into shape for its interrupted trip. Instead of a duck it was identified as a Blue Goose. I am sorry that it did not live but the skin is being mounted by Dr. Earl Henry. A few days later an American Bittern was captured, taken to Mr. Ijams and turned over to me for banding. After it was banded it was turned loose. It walked off into the brush and soon was lost sight of. At present I am trying to nurse a Black Duck back into good shape. It is eating well and I hope to band it soon. When it is turned loose I hope that it will decide to stay with the Mallards that are around my house.—W. M. JOHNSON, Knoxville.

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HEREDITARY HABITS:—The hereditary tendency of birds to return year after year to the same spot for their nesting season is so well established that we accept it as a foregone conclusion. The Baltimore Oriole, however, is an exception to this general rule, as will be seen from the following data covering twenty years' nests. Each of the sites listed below was followed up for several years after the first nesting, only to find that none of the birds rebuilt in the exact spot first used. When a nest was found anywhere near the former one several years had elapsed between the two nestings.

In the year 1886 the author saw his first Baltimore Oriole nest. It was 30 feet up in a water maple located on the west property line of the Vanderbilt campus in Nashville. For the next few years he was at school and made no records until 1892 when a nest was located in the Fuller property on Hillsboro Road just out of the city. In 1910 a pair of Baltimore Orioles built a nest on 24th Avenue near the Vanderbilt campus. In 1911 one was found on West Acklen Ave. near 21st. The next year a pair built on Granny White Pike near Granny White's grave. A sycamore over the Lebanon Road, 7 miles from the city, held a nest in 1915. Nests found in the next several years were also in sycamores, as follows: 1916, on Elm Hill Pike at Greenwood cemetery; 1918, over Hyde's Ferry Pike near Bull Run; and 1925, near Highway No. 1, west of Nine Mile Hill. A pair of these Orioles built in a silver poplar over Hillsboro Road at Woodlawn Drive in 1926.

Nests were located on the Sanford Duncan farm in rear of the National cemetery in 1927 and 1929. In 1930 a pair built in a sycamore on Garland Ave. near 24th. The next year a nest was found on Beechwood Ave. near 12th. In succeeding years breeding pairs of Baltimore Orioles were found in the same general section of the city, as follows: In 1932 on Garland Ave. near 21st; in 1933 on Sweetbrier Ave. near Belmont; in 1934 on Highland Ave. close to 22nd; in 1936 on the Vanderbilt campus near 24th; in 1937 on Natchez Trace near Essex Ave., and in 1938 on Essex Ave. near 25th. All of the above localities are in Davidson County, about half being in Nashville.

From this report one might suppose that this nomad tendency of the Baltimore was an Oriole characteristic but the Orchard Oriole disproves this idea. They not only build in the same orchard but often in the same tree in succeeding years. This is but one phase of bird study which is offered as a suggestion for you to consider. There are many others equally interesting.—HARRY S. VAUGHN, Nashville.

**BOUQUET:**—We very much appreciate the following item, taken from the Dec. issue of *Nature Magazine* and pass it on to our members. "The September, 1940, issue of *The Migrant* celebrates the silver anniversary of the Tennessee Ornithological Society, of which this always interesting little quarterly is the official publication. On Oct. 7, 1915, five "bird men" in Nashville met and organized this group, and from this meeting has grown an active society of naturalists and conservationists with chapters in several Tennessee cities. The membership may well be proud of *The Migrant*. With its ornithological information attractively presented, it is a publication that should be saved in one's files for it makes contributions of lasting value."

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**BIND YOUR MIGRANTS:** With this issue, our present Editor completes his first 'block' of three volumes and, as at the conclusion of the three preceding ones, a title page and species index is included. The twelve issues make a nice-sized volume and with the index, they comprise a useful reference book on Tennessee birds. The writer has secured a special price of $1.25 to have the set substantially bound in cloth. Missing issues can be supplied at 20 cents each.

Old back numbers are wanted. Our stock of back numbers of certain early issues is very low and in order to make up as many complete sets as possible for our stock, we would be glad to have any of the following issues sent in. 1931—all issues; 1933—March and Sept.; 1934—March and June; 1935—March. We would not wish you to rob a nearly complete set in order to comply but rather, would urge you to order missing copies to complete your set. We will exchange later issues, two for one, for any of the above.—A. F. GANIER, 2112 Woodlawn Drive, Nashville.

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## CORRECTIONS

1938: p. 7—Should be '2' Screech Owls for Murfreesboro instead of '11'.
p. 44—E—'500 ft.' should be '5000 ft.' Thus '5000 ft. to 6000 ft.' F—second '6000 ft.' should be '6600 ft.' Thus........'6000 to 6600 ft.'
p. 65—3rd line from the bottom—'Fayetteville' should be 'Shelbyville.'

1939: p. 1—The date of Mr. Webb's death should be Feb. 26.
p. 78—"LATE NESTS........" 4th line—'Linden' should be 'Linton.'

We are indebted to our readers for calling our attention to the above. Every effort is made to prevent errors but it is difficult to catch every typographical error, especially after looking over the same material repeatedly. Occasionally in order to save a day in going to press the final corrections are not checked by us. This occurred in the case of the elevations listed above, the original error being corrected but the new error being overlooked as the line was reinserted in the page by the printer.

## CHAPTER MEETING DATES

Our local chapters have regular meetings, usually twice a month, and visiting members are always doubly welcome. All who are interested in the outdoors are cordially invited. The following schedules have come to hand. CLARKSVILLE:—Scheduled for Jan. 7 and 21; Feb. 4 and 18; Mar. 4 and 18, Alfred Clebsch, secy. KNOXVILLE:—Night meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month while field trips, usually for a half day, are scheduled the third Sunday of each month. MEMPHIS:—Meetings are held the first and third Mondays, 8 p.m., at the Memphis Museum. A special meeting will probably be arranged at the time of the North American Wildlife Conference convention in Memphis, Feb. 17-19, 1941. Over 60 attended the fall field day at Shelby Forest, Nov. 3. NASHVILLE:—Meets on the second and fourth Mondays, 7:30 p.m., at the Social-Religious Building, Peabody College.

## NEW CHAPTER OFFICERS

MEMPHIS:—Re-elected: Lawrence Kent, pres.; Mrs. A. L. Torti, vice-pres.; Mrs. Jack Embury (nee Katherine Hale), treas. Elected: Mrs. Bob Wilkinson, secy.; address—1427 Jefferson Ave.

KNOXVILLE:—Officers for 1941 are: William M. Johnson, pres.; Dr. Earl O. Henry, vice-pres.; Miss Elise Morrell, sec-treas.; W. M. Walker, Jr., curator.

We wish to thank the Knoxville group for another gift of $10 to *The Migrant* and the Memphis members for caring for all expenses connected with mailing a copy of this issue to every county superintendent of schools in Tennessee.

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# Bibliography: 1938, 1939, 1940

Bellrose, Frank. 1938. Duck Hawks Nesting in Western Tennessee. *Wilson Bulletin*, 50 (2):139. The actions of a pair over a tall, dead cypress with the crown broken off, indicated that they were nesting there. March 27, 1937, on the west side of Reelfoot Lake.

Chapman, Frank M. 1939. *Quiscalus* in Mississippi. *Auk*, 56 (1):28-31. Mentions specimens from southwestern Tennessee of what we continue to call the Bronzed Grackle. The locality Summerville is evidently Somerville, Tenn.

Cooke, May Thatcher. 1940. Notes on Speed of Migration. *Bird-Banding*, 11 (1):21. Mentions two Swifts taken by Mrs. Laskey (38-52486 and 39-111991).

Crook, Compton. 1938. Notes on the Food of Some Water Birds of Reelfoot Lake (Upper Blue Basin Area). *Jour. Tenn. Acad. Sci.*, 13 (2):109-119. Observations and stomach analyses of 25 specimens comprising 4 species, July 29 to Sept. 2, 1937. This period would include birds from farther south, notably the Little Blue Herons. Only one game fish was found to be taken in significant numbers. The percentage of fish taken was high, probably due to the drying-up of swamps and shallow areas, thus affecting other forms of food. The number of birds present was not considered sufficient to menace game fishing.

Edney, J. M. 1940. The Sandhill Crane In Middle Tennessee. *Jour. Tenn. Acad. Sci.*, 15 (4):401. A review by A. F. Ganier of this and two previous records will appear in these pages later.

Ganier, Albert F. *Jour. Tenn. Acad. Sci.*, 14 (4):341. 1939. Biographical sketch and photograph of Mr. Ganier who was president of the T.A.S. in 1926.

Gersbacher, Eva Oxford. 1939. The Heronries at Reelfoot Lake. *Jour. Tenn. Acad. Sci.*, 14 (1):162-180. Illustrated. A detailed and interesting study of the nesting and feeding habits of the American Egret, Double-crested Cormorant, Ward's Heron, Black-crowned Night Heron, and Water Turkey or Anhinga. Description and history of 'cranetown.'

Green, Wyman R. 1940. Banding of Chimney Swifts *(Chaetura pelagica)* in the Region of Chattanooga, Tennessee. *Bird-Banding*, 11 (2):37-57. Reviewed in *The Migrant*, 11 (2):38-44.

Gross, Alfred O. 1940. The Migration of Kent Island Herring Gulls. *Bird-Banding*, 11 (4):129-155. Maps of recoveries from Kent Island, New Brunswick, and the Great Lakes region show one and seven records, respectively, in Tennessee.

Laskey, Amelia R. 1939. A Study of Nesting Eastern Bluebirds. *Bird-Banding*, 10 (1):23-32. A later report is listed immediately following.

Laskey, Amelia R. 1940. The 1939 Nesting Season of Bluebirds at Nashville, Tennessee. *Wilson Bulletin*, 52, (3):183-190. An example of the excellent work being done by our Mrs. Laskey. Copiously abstracted in this issue.

Laskey, Amelia R. 1940. Bertram, A Blackbird With Personality. *Bird-Lore*, 62 (1):25-30. A very interesting account of the antics and behavior of a Bronzed Grackle, raised from an orphaned baby in May to an adult with the full freedom of the house and banding station. On short daytime jaunts in September he showed no fear of humans and was caught or recognized several times a few miles from home. After Sept. 17 he deserted the porch roost to go with his kind but returned each morning until Oct. 6 when he was seen for the last time. Unfortunately he failed to show up at Blossomdell the next spring but we all hope that a Grackle with band No. 34-339828 (plus a green celluloid band) will yet report in person.

Laskey, Mrs. F. C. 1940. Highlights of a Banding Year. *Inland Bird Banding News*, 12 (2):13. Summary of report for year ending June 30, 1940; banded about 9300 Swifts and 2619 birds of 70 other species. Several interesting age records, including two Swifts of Prof. Green's (1928 and 1930) trapped in 1939, a Brown Thrasher over 7 years and two Field Sparrows 6 or more years.

Lowery, Geo. H., Jr. 1940. Geographical Variation in the Carolina Wren. *Auk*, 57 (1):95-104. Proposes new subspecies. East Tennessee specimens at the University of Michigan are mentioned. The range of the Southern Carolina Wren *(Thryothorus ludovicianus ludovicianus)* includes all of Tennessee as shown on a provisional map.

Maslowski, Karl H. 1938. Ghosts of Earthquake Lake. *Animal and Zoo Magazine* (London), July, 1938:18-19. A popular account. Mr. Maslowski's experiences at Reelfoot Lake were described in *The Migrant*, 8 (3):58-60 and an excellent example of his photographic art appears in our December, 1937 issue.

**Rogers, Mrs. S. H.** 1940. Banding at Pulaski, Tennessee. *Inland Bird Banding News,* 12 (3):22. Includes some Grackle records. The two Cincinnati birds are listed in this issue in 'With Our Banders.'

Simpson, Thomas W. 1939. The Feeding Habits of the Coot, Florida Gallinule, and Least Bittern on Reelfoot Lake. *Jour. Tenn. Acad. Sci.,* 14 (1):110-115. A study of summer feeding habits and analyses of stomach contents for 22 specimens. The food of the first two species was principally vegetable matter, that of the last was animal matter.

Stevens, O. A. 1940. Bird Banding in the Last Five Years. *Bird-Banding,* 11 (4):169-173. Surveys work done by states. For the year ending June 30, 1939, Tennessee is listed fourth with 36,012 birds banded. Massachusetts is first with 43,029. Our record is due to the good all-round work of Mrs. Laskey and the Swift banding at other stations. More stations are being established here.

Stupka, Arthur. 1938. Red Crossbill Breeding in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. *Auk,* 55 (4):675. First breeding record south of Pennsylvania. Adults and juvenals noted April 10 and April 11, 1938, at separate localities near Gatlinburg, Tenn., and April 19, 1938, at Indian Gap near the state line.

Wetmore, Alexander. 1939. Western Olive-backed Thrush in West Virginia and Tennessee. *Auk,* 56 (4):477. Several specimens previously mentioned in the report on U. S. National Museum collections from Tennessee are assigned to *Hylocichla ustulata almae.* (See *The Migrant,* 11 (1) :29-31.)

Wing, Leonard. 1938. Albino Chimney Swift. *Auk,* 55 (2):280. An albino among a dozen Swifts feeding near the Long Hollow Fire Tower, Union County, Tenn. and 11 miles east of La Follette, Sept. 7, 1937.

Wing, Leonard. 1939. Availability Seasons of Some Tennessee Game-Food Plants. *Jour. Tenn. Acad. Sci.,* 14 (3):325-327. For use in considering sanctuary requirements.

Wing, Leonard. 1940. A game Survey in Northeastern Tennessee. *Jour. Tenn. Acad. Sci.,* 15 (3):309-320. Discusses, among other species, Bob-white, Ruffed Grouse, Wild Turkey, and Passenger Pigeon, and factors affecting them.

Wing, Leonard. 1940. A Study of Wintering Tennessee Crow Specimens. *Jour. Tenn. Acad. Sci.,* 15 (4):358-370. Maryville, Tenn., Jan., 1938, 37 specimens from a crow shoot at a roost, weighed, measured, sexed, and stomach contents analyzed. Samples judged too small for conslusive evidence but ratios indicated were 40 males to 60 females and 1 adult to 6 young. Both the eastern and southern subspecies represented. Principal food was evidently corn, dogwood, dwarf sumac, and poison oak.

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NOTE: The various Christmas Census lists from Tennessee which are published annually in *Bird-Lore* are referred to in each March issue of *The Migrant* wherein the lists themselves are tabulated.

NOTE: Following the publication name is the volume number with issue number in parentheses, followed by the page reference.

# THE MIGRANT

A QUARTERLY JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE STUDY OF TENNESSEE BIRDS.
PUBLISHED BY THE TENNESSEE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY.
Supported by membership dues of $1 per year. Please remit to
**Alfred Clebsch, Secretary-Treasurer, 838 Gracey Ave., Clarksville**
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**Ben B. Coffey, Jr., Editor, 672 N. Belvedere, Memphis**
Regional Editors: Albert F. Ganier, Nashville; W. M. Walker, Knoxville;
Bruce P. Tyler, Johnson City; Alfred Clebsch, Clarksville.

*"The simple truth about birds is interesting enough,
it is not necessary to go beyond it."*

PLEASE NOTIFY THE SECRETARY OF A CHANGE IN ADDRESS

## Our Second Twenty-five Years

At the recent anniversary banquet one of the founders predicted that he would be among those present at the fiftieth anniversary in 1965. This statement implies two things,—first, that he, the founder, would be alive himself, and second, that the society would also be a living organization. The fulfillment of the first part of this statement depends on one person alone, but the fulfillment of the second part of this statement will depend on many of the present members of the T.O.S., and this editorial is written with a view to making the next twenty-five years so successful that the T.O.S. will have just as satisfactory a growth in the twenty-five years to come as it has had in the first twenty-five years of its history.

A careful analysis of those qualities which have made this society a live organization will reveal the fact that unceasing interest, unswerving loyalty, and unwearied activity are the three characteristics which have made it possible for the T.O.S. not only to live but to grow from five members to more than three hundred. This unceasing interest grew out of a conviction that something must be done in Tennessee for the birds. And this conviction was like a sacred fire which had to be kept burning at all times. There was not much flame or smoke connected with the early days—its fires were anthracitic rather than bituminous. This loyalty led to a regularity of attendance on all meetings and to the performance of the duties incumbent on the members, to the support of officers in their work, and to a spirit of evangelism in the gospel of bird study and bird protection. This unwearied activity led the members in the early days to do field work during all their leisure hours, and to make a scientific study of Tennessee birds from the mountains to the Mississippi. It also led to the organization of other groups in various parts of the state, to the publishing of articles in the newspapers and magazines; to the founding of our own magazine, *The Migrant*, which for more than ten years has been the pride of our members. It also caused many of the members to enlist by word of mouth and by letters other workers, not only in Tennessee but in the adjoining states. This activity was also shown in the attempt to influence state and county officials everywhere in such a way that they would become enthusiastic conservationists.

Too many of the active members in most of our chapters are now veterans. We need new recruits, young vigorous life, and fresh blood infused into the old body to keep the organization alive. There comes at times to some of the older members a feeling of uncertainty, also of despair, when so many of our young members fail to show this interest, this loyalty, and this activity. The earnest wish of those who have toiled for the past twenty years, more or less, is that all the younger members of the T.O.S. who read this editorial will vow undying devotion to the cause represented by the T.O.S. and thus guarantee that this organization will be very much alive in 1965 to celebrate its fiftieth anniversary.—GEORGE R. MAYFIELD.

———oOo———

Your editor's task of preparing this issue was considerably lightened by the splendid cooperation and assistance rendered by our contributors. We especially wish to thank H. C. Monk who prepared the three year index of species, A. F. Ganier who handled our illustrations down to the point of mailing the finished product to us for insertion, G. R. Mayfield for our editorial as requested, and all the other contributors who rushed their notes and articles to us that we might get an early start. Secretary Clebsch, as usual, addressed the envelopes for us. Our banders cooperated in the inauguration of a new department and we are going to depend on them for similar short but regular contributions in addition to any articles on special subjects.

———oOo———

## Christmas Census Trips

Clarksville, Memphis, and Nashville are planning their trips for Sunday, Dec. 22. The Knoxville group will make the annual Gt. Smoky Mtns. Natl. Park census on that date. Other observers will probably go afield the same day. Some will make additional census lists on the 29th. and on New Year's Day. As usual, your editor will be out Christmas Day. Those lists to be submitted to *Bird-Lore*, national sponsors, must be made on one day between the 22nd and the 29th, inclusive. Other lists made as close as possible to this period are also included in *The Migrant* in order to have as representative a showing as possible. Mimeographed suggestions on how to make a census may be secured from A. F. Ganier or Ben Coffey. Lists for *Bird-Lore* must be sent to them at once after the trip. For *The Migrant* please send them in NOT LATER THAN JAN. 15. You can assist us by totalling the number of species and of individuals and then checking same. They can be tabulated on our regular field cards or listed (typed or longhand) in the A.O.U. Check-List order. This order is followed in Ganier's Tennessee list, Peterson's Field Guide, and previous lists in *The Migrant.* For uncommon records please give details and names of parties responsible for the identification. If in doubt we suggest omitting any such record. For expediency mail to the present editor.

———oOo———

THE GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK was formerly dedicated on Labor Day last by President Roosevelt. This vast mountain wilderness comprises 463,000 acres or 723 square miles. To really appreciate the beauties of the area, its flora and fauna, one should hike some of the 500 miles of trails that lead off from the auto roads.

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COMPILED BY HARRY C. MONK

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Cuckoo, Yellow-billed, **1938:** 13, 24, 97; **1939:** 3, 32, 52, 67; **1940:** 56, 64, 73.

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*In general, subspecies are ignored unless authors specifically state the names used are based on collected specimens determined by a competent authority. Certain exceptions have been made, e.g. Juncos, Shrikes, Grackles, Horned Larks, etc.

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Kinglet, Ruby-crowned, **1938:** 8, 14, 31, 96; **1939:** 3, 5, 7, 13, 17; **1940:** 22, 23, 37, 103.
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Longspur, Lapland, **1940:** 5, 7, 8, 13, 14, 21, 22, 26, 27, 32, 103.
Loon, **1938:** 11, 12; **1939:** 3, 4, 6, 13, 29, 76; **1940:** 21, 103, 104.

Mallard, **1938:** 7, 12, 15, 95; **1939:** 3, 6, 7, 14, 74; **1940:** 6, 7, 21, 27, 103, 104.
Martin, Purple, **1938:** 5, 13, 19, 28, 29, 31, 44, 46, 48, 49, 53, 65, 66, 69; **1939:** 3, 11, 12, 29, 32, 55, 58, 67; **1940:** 27, 28, 32, 57, 74, 78.
Meadowlark, **1938:** 8, 16-19, 26, 45-48, 50, 63, 69, 70, 91, 92; **1939:** 4, 5, 7, 81; **1940:** 22, 23, 31, 54, 59, 64, 75, 112.
Merganser, **1940:** 61.
Merganser, American, **1938:** 7, 12; **1939:** 4; **1940:** 6, 21, 22, 27.
Merganser, Hooded, **1938:** 7, 12, 97; **1939:** 3, 6, 28, 74; **1940:** 21, 22, 27, 104.
Merganser, Red-breasted, **1938:** 12; **1939:** 6; **1940:** 21.
Mockingbird, **1938:** 7, 10, 16, 17, 19, 25, 46-48, 50, 51, 70, 90-92; **1939:** 3, 5, 7, 10, 33, 56, 58, 66, 78, 81; **1940:** 22, 23, 54, 62, 65, 75, 78, 112.

Nighthawk, **1938:** 2, 19, 46, 66; **1939:** 3, 33, 42, 47, 52, 67, 75; **1940:** 56, 66, 78.
Nighthawk, Florida, **1940:** 66.
Nuthatch, Brown-headed, **1938:** 12, 16; **1939:** 8, 11.
Nuthatch, Florida, **1939:** 45.
Nuthatch, Red-breasted, **1938:** 1, 3, 7, 42, 44, 50; **1939:** 5, 6, 9, 11; **1940:** 21, 25, 28, 48, 67.
Nuthatch, White-breasted, **1938:** 7, 16, 44, 49; **1939:** 3-6, 18, 53; **1940:** 22, 23, 31, 57.

Old-squaw, **1938:** 6, 7; **1939:** 6, 13; **1940:** 21, 103.
Oriole, Baltimore, **1939:** 4, 29, 30, 66; **1940:** 49, 54, 64, 113.
Oriole, Orchard, **1938:** 46, 47; **1939:** 4, 55; **1940:** 49, 59, 64, 113.
Osprey, **1938:** 2, 53, 64, 97; **1939:** 3, 14, 32; **1940:** 50, 54, 76.
Oven-bird, **1938:** 45, 48, 66; **1939:** 3, 4, 31, 42, 74; **1940:** 37, 49, 54, 58, 73.
Owl, Barn, **1938:** 70; **1939:** 3, 4, 6, 13, 47, 76, 77; **1940:** 4, 22, 82, 97, 98.
Owl, Barred, **1938:** 7, 44, 52, 96; **1939:** 5, 6, 14, 17, 25, 33, 42, 52, 55; **1940:** 22, 23, 31, 56, 73, 74.
Owl, Florida Barred, **1940:** 36.
Owl, Western Burrowing, **1939:** 45; **1940:** 21, 22, 26, 36.
Owl, Great Horned, **1938:** 7, 23; **1939:** 3, 5, 6, 24, 42, 47, 74, 75; **1940:** 19, 22, 23, 32, 54, 56.
Owl, Long-eared, **1940:** 4.
Owl, Saw-whet, **1940:** 4.
Owl, Screech, **1938:** 2, 7, 16, 17, 32, 48, 52, 70; **1939:** 3, 5, 6, 8, 14, 42, 55; **1940:** 22, 23, 31, 45, 74.
Owl, Florida Screech, **1939:** 45.
Owl, Southern Screech, **1940:** 56, 66.

Paroquet, **1940:** 61.
Partridge, Chukar, **1940:** 11.
Pelican, White, **1938:** 95; **1940:** 76.
Pewee, Wood, **1938:** 2, 18, 19, 25, 44, 46-48, 69, 97; **1939:** 3, 53: **1940:** 57, 64, 73, 74.
Phalarope, Wilson's, **1939:** 15, 57.
Phoebe, **1938:** 2, 7, 19, 44, 48, 50, 53, 71; **1939:** 3, 5, 6, 9, 14, 50, 52, 74, 81; **1940:** 22, 23, 26, 27, 57, 64, 73, 103.
Pigeon, Passenger, **1940:** 117.
Pintail, **1938:** 12, 95, 97; **1939:** 3, 58; **1940:** 21, 27, 61.
Pipit, American, **1938:** 8, 12; **1939:** 5, 7, 45, 76; **1940:** 6, 13, 14, 22, 24, 28, 103.
Plover, Black-bellied, **1938:** 29, 64, 68; **1939:** 15.
Plover, Golden, **1939:** 15.
Plover, Semipalmated, **1938:** 29, 30, 64; **1939:** 57; **1940:** 76, 78.

Plover, Upland, **1938:** 63, 69; **1940:** 8-11, 14, 32.
Rail, King, **1938:** 28, 30; **1939:** 3, 31; **1940:** 48.
Rail, Virginia, **1940:** 103.
Raven, **1938:** 2, 6, 7, 42, 44; **1939:** 6; **1940:** 54.
Redhead, **1940:** 103.
Redstart, American, **1938:** 4, 25, 45, 48, 52; **1939:** 4, 32, 42, 54, 60; **1940:** 37, 49, 54, 73, 76.
Red-wing, **1938:** 8, 14, 15, 45, 46, 49, 59, 63, 70; **1939:** 4, 5, 7, 13, 14, 29, 55, 58; **1940:** 8, 22, 26-28, 31, 54, 64, 90, 106, 112.
Robin, **1938:** 8, 11, 13, 14, 16-19, 24, 26, 29, 32, 44, 46-50, 65, 67, 70, 71, 90, 92, 98; **1939:** 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 14, 18, 21, 56, 58, 61, 66, 75, 81; **1940:** 6, 22, 23, 26, 27, 31, 35, 58, 60, 61, 63, 67, 73, 75, 77, 78, 92, 103, 105.

Sandpiper, Baird's, **1939:** 44.
Sandpiper, Least, **1938:** 29, 30, 64, 95; **1939:** 3, 31, 44, 57; **1940:** 76.
Sandpiper, Pectoral, **1938:** 30, 64, 95, 97; **1939:** 57; **1940:** 14, 76.
Sandpiper, Red-backed, **1939:** 15.
Sandpiper, Semipalmated, **1938:** 29, 30, 64, 95; **1939:** 45, 57; **1940:** 76.
Sandpiper, Solitary, **1938:** 29, 30, 95; **1939:** 3, 31, 42, 44; **1940:** 10, 31, 77, 78.
Sandpiper, Western Solitary, **1940:** 30.
Sandpiper, Spotted, **1938:** 29, 30, 67, 95; **1939:** 3, 42, 51; **1940:** 54, 77.
Sandpiper, Stilt, **1939:** 57; **1940:** 66, 76.
Sandpiper, Western, **1938:** 64, 95; **1939:** 45, 57; **1940:** 76.
Sapsucker, **1938:** 7, 16, 17, 43, 44, 96, 98; **1939:** 3, 5, 6, 9, 42, 81; **1940:** 22, 23.
Shoveller, **1938:** 7; **1939:** 6; **1940:** 21.
Shrike, **1938:** 8, 15, 26; **1939:** 5, 7; **1940:** 22, 23, 112.
Shrike, Loggerhead, **1938:** 8, 46; **1939:** 7, 35; **1940:** 24.
Shrike, Migrant, **1938:** 8, 17, 98; **1939:** 3, 7, 35, 81; **1940:** 24.
Siskin, Pine, **1938:** 6, 8, 42, 45, 93; **1939:** 4, 9; **1940:** 25.
Snipe, Wilson's, **1938:** 2, 7, 12, 97; **1939:** 3, 6, 13; **1940:** 7, 21, 26, 28, 112.
Sora, **1939:** 31, 33.
Sparrow, Bachman's, **1938:** 4; **1939:** 55; **1940:** 59, 63.
Sparrow, Chipping, **1938:** 8, 10, 14, 45-50, 69, 71, 97; **1939:** 4, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 33, 55, 67; **1940:** 21, 27, 59, 63, 73, 74, 76, 103.
Sparrow, English, **1938:** 8, 16-18, 25, 46-50, 70, 88, 92; **1939:** 4, 5, 7, 33, 54, 62, 81; **1940:** 8, 22, 23, 59, 73, 94, 96.
Sparrow, Field, **1938:** 4, 8, 10, 16, 17, 19, 45-50, 54, 65, 91, 92; **1939:** 4, 5, 7, 8, 11, 33, 47, 55, 58, 78, 81; **1940:** 22, 23, 26, 31, 54, 59, 63, 65, 73, 112, 116.
Sparrow, Eastern Field, **1939:** 46.
Sparrow, Western Field, **1939:** 46; **1940:** 30.
Sparrow, Fox, **1938:** 8, 16, 17, 96; **1939:** 4, 5, 7, 8, 75, 81; **1940:** 22, 23, 26, 27, 28, 37.
Sparrow, Eastern Fox, **1939:** 46.
Sparrow, Gambel's, **1938:** 10, 29, 54; **1939:** 46.
Sparrow, Grasshopper, **1938:** 28, 45, 48, 63; **1939:** 4, 31; **1940:** 54, 63.
Sparrow, Lark, **1939:** 34; **1940:** 48.
Sparrow, Leconte's, **1939:** 46; **1940:** 21, 22, 26, 103.
Sparrow, Lincoln's, **1938:** 8, 33; **1939:** 4, 13, 32, 33, 42, 46; **1940:** 104.
Sparrow, Savannah, **1938:** 8, 12, 15; **1939:** 4, 5, 7, 32, 75; **1940:** 22, 23, 27, 31.
Sparrow, Eastern Savannah, **1939:** 46.
Sparrow, Churchill Savannah, **1939:** 46; **1940:** 31.
Sparrow, Song, **1938:** 8, 16, 17, 45, 48-50, 67, 91-93, 98; **1939:** 4, 5, 7, 11, 58, 59, 81; **1940:** 7, 22, 23, 31, 103, 105, 112.
Sparrow, Mississippi Song, **1939:** 46.
Sparrow, Swamp, **1938:** 8, 12, 16, 17; **1939:** 4, 5, 7, 11, 31, 32, 46, 75, 81; **1940:** 22, 23, 61, 77, 112.
Sparrow, Tree, **1938:** 8, 13, 16; **1939:** 5, 7, 9, 12, 13; **1940:** 7, 14, 22, 23, 26, 28.
Sparrow, Eastern Tree, **1939:** 46.
Sparrow, Vesper, **1938:** 13, 16, 97; **1939:** 4, 8, 11, 12; **1940:** 21, 22, 24, 27, 103.
Sparrow, Eastern Vesper, **1939:** 46.
Sparrow, White-crowned, **1938:** 8, 10, 16, 17, 51, 54, 92; **1939:** 4, 5, 7, 74; **1940:** 7, 22-24, 28, 29, 68, 103-105.
Sparrow, White-throated, **1938:** 8, 10, 16-18, 54, 69, 71, 90-92, 96; **1939:** 4, 5, 7, 11, 32-34, 46, 74, 81; **1940:** 22-24, 26, 28, 89, 90, 103-105, 112.
Starling, **1938:** 8, 14-18, 29, 32, 44, 47, 49, 50, 59, 61, 65, 70, 76, 87, 90, 92; **1939:** 3, 5, 7, 13, 32, 56, 58, 67, 74, 75, 81; **1940:** 7, 22-24, 26, 27, 45, 51, 54, 75, 77, 78, 103, 106.
Swallow, Bank, **1938:** 64; **1939:** 3; **1940:** 67.
Swallow, Barn, **1938:** 2, 64, 65; **1939:** 3, 29; **1940:** 48, 54.

Swallow, Cliff, **1938:** 2, 30, 64, 66; **1939:** 3, 57; **1940:** 76.
Swallow, Northern Cliff, **1940:** 67.
Swallow, Rough-winged, **1938:** 44, 63, 64; **1939:** 3, 29; **1940:** 54, 91.
Swallow, Tree, **1938:** 14, 64; **1939:** 3, 57, 74; **1940:** 27, 103.
Swan, Trumpeter, **1940:** 61.
Swan, Whistling, **1938:** 97.
Swift, Chimney, **1938:** 2, 44, 46-49, 65, 66, 71, 72, 77-86, 97; **1939:** 3, 32, 38, 47, 52, 67, 74, 75, 81; **1940:** 38-44, 56, 73, 77, 82, 91, 104, 105, 115, 116.
Tanager, Scarlet, **1938:** 45, 53; **1939:** 4, 36; **1940:** 49, 54, 59, 73, 74.
Tanager, Summer, **1938:** 4, 18, 31, 45, 46, 48, 71; **1939:** 4, 55; **1940:** 59, 64, 65, 73.
Teal, Blue-winged, **1938:** 64, 95; **1939:** 6, 32, 57, 74; **1940:** 21, 27, 78, 104, 112.
Teal, Green-winged, **1938:** 7; **1939:** 3, 6, 74; **1940:** 21, 22, 61, 104.
Tern, Black, **1938:** 28, 30, 64, 67, 69; **1939:** 29, 57.
Tern, Brown's, **1940:** 66.
Tern, Caspian, **1938:** 66, 95; **1939:** 57; **1940:** 103.
Tern, Common, **1939:** 29.
Tern, Forster's, **1939:** 3.
Tern, Least, **1938:** 1, 28, 64; **1939:** 29, 57.
Thrasher, Brown, **1938**: 7, 15-17, 25, 31, 44, 46-48, 50, 54, 69-71, 98; **1939:** 3, 5, 7, 11, 12, 56, 62, 66, 75; **1940:** 22, 23, 27, 28, 31, 54, 57, 62, 73, 75, 116.
Thrush, Grey-cheeked, **1938:** 54; **1939:** 3, 32, 59; **1940:** 67.
Thrush, Hermit, **1938:** 8, 15-17, 69, 96; **1939:** 3, 5, 7, 22, 59, 75, 81; **1940:** 7, 22, 23.
Thrush, Mono Hermit, **1940:** 67.
Thrush, Olive-backed, **1939:** 3, 33, 45, 59; **1940:** 104.
Thrush, Western Olive-backed, **1940:** 117.
Thrush, Willow, **1940:** 67.
Thrush, Wood, **1938:** 3, 31, 44, 46-50, 69, 98; **1939:** 3, 4, 29, 53, 59, 60; **1940:** 54, 58, 63, 73.
Titmouse, Tufted, **1938:** 3, 7, 11, 16, 17, 19, 25, 44, 46-49, 54, 69, 70, 92, 96; **1939:** 3, 5, 6, 11, 21, 29, 53, 81; **1940:** 6, 22, 23, 54, 57, 63, 73, 105, 112.
Towhee, **1938:** 4, 8, 12, 16, 24, 25, 28, 45, 47, 48, 54, 64, 92, 96; **1939:** 5, 8, 56, 67, 81; **1940:** 22, 23, 26, 27, 31, 48, 54, 59, 61, 63, 73, 77, 90, 112.
Towhee, Alabama, **1939:** 46.
Turkey, Wild, **1938:** 6, 7; **1939:** 6; **1940:** 23, 25, 54, 55, 117.
Veery, **1938:** 43, 44, 50; **1939:** 3, 31, 59.
Vireo, Blue-headed, **1938:** 97; **1939:** 3, 8, 74; **1940:** 67.
Vireo, Mountain, **1938:** 3, 43, 45, 50; **1939:** 3.
Vireo, Philadelphia, **1938:** 97; **1939:** 3; **1940:** 67.
Vireo, Warbling, **1939:** 3, 29, 31, 45.
Vireo, Red-eyed, **1938:** 3, 18, 45-48, 50, 63, 70; **1939:** 3, 27, 54, 60; **1940:** 54, 58, 64, 73.
Vireo, White-eyed, **1938:** 3, 24, 25, 45-48, 70, 71; **1939:** 3, 4, 29, 33, 54, 78; **1940:** 58, 64, 65, 67, 73.
Vireo, Northern White-eyed, **1940:** 67. 67, 76; **1940:** 54, 64.
Vireo, Yellow-throated, **1938:** 45, 48, 49; **1939:** 3, 27, 54; **1940:** 58, 64, 73.
Vulture, Black, **1938:** 7, 12, 16, 23; **1939:** 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 27, 51, 60, 61; **1940:** 1, 21, 23, 33, 55, 61, 77.
Vulture, Turkey, **1938:** 2, 7, 16, 17, 44; **1939:** 3, 5, 6, 13, 43, 51, 60, 61; **1940:** 21, 23, 35, 54, 61, 112.
Vulture, Eastern Turkey, **1940:** 55.

Warbler, Bay-breasted, **1939:** 3, 33.
Warbler, Black and White, **1938:** 3, 45, 48-50, 63, 69; **1939:** 3, 33, 42, 54, 58; **1940:** 49, 54, 58, 64, 73, 76.
Warbler, Blackburnian, **1938:** 4, 43, 45, 66, 98, **1939:** 58; **1940:** 76, 77.
Warbler, Black-throated Blue, **1939:** 3.
Warbler, Black-poll, **1939:** 3, 31, 33; **1940:** 49.
Warbler, Black-throated Green, **1938:** 3, 45, 50, 63, 98; **1939:** 3, 31, 33, 42; **1940:** 58, 76, 77.
Warbler, Blue-winged, **1938:** 63; **1939:** 3; **1940:** 58, 76.
Warbler, Cairns's, **1938:** 3, 43, 45, 50.
Warbler, Canada, **1938:** 42, 45, 52; **1939:** 4, 33, 42, 57, 58; **1940:** 76, 77.
Warbler, Cape May, **1939:** 3.
Warbler, Cerulean, **1938:** 45; **1939:** 33, 60; **1940:** 49, 58, 64.
Warbler, Chestnut-sided, **1938:** 4, 31, 43, 45, 50; **1939:** 3, 33, 42; **1940:** 49, 77.
Warbler, Connecticut, **1939:** 3.
Warbler, Golden-winged, **1938:** 42, 45; **1939:** 3; **1940:** 58, 77.
Warbler, Hooded, **1938:** 1, 4, 45, 46, 64; **1939:** 3, 33, 54, 60; **1940:** 49, 54, 59, 64, 111.
Warbler, Kentucky, **1938:** 31, 45, 48; **1939:** 3, 54, 60; **1940:** 37, 59, 64, 73.
Warbler, Magnolia, **1938:** 3, 66, 98; **1939:** 3, 32, 33, 42, 58.

Warbler, Mourning, **1939:** 3, 31, 33.
Warbler, Myrtle, **1938:** 8, 16, 17, 92; **1939:** 3, 5, 7, 33, 81; **1940:** 6, 7, 22, 23, 26, 27, 49, 112.
Warbler, Nashville, **1939:** 3; **1940:** 34, 68, 103, 104.
Warbler, Orange-crowned, **1939:** 3.
Warbler, Palm, **1938:** 97; **1939:** 3, 8, 33, 76; **1940:** 49, 104.
Warbler, Yellow Palm, **1939:** 4, 7, 9, 77, 78; **1940:** 22, 24.
Warbler, Parula, **1938:** 63; **1939:** 3, 54,
Warbler, Western Parula, **1940:** 37, 68.
58, 60; **1940:** 31, 58, 76.
Warbler, Pine, **1938:** 12, 15, 16, 45, 46, 48; **1939:** 3, 8, 54, 62; **1940:** 28, 49, 58, 68, 73, 74.
Warbler, Prairie, **1938:** 19, 31, 45, 47; **1939:** 3, 54; **1940:** 54, 58, 64, 68.
Warbler, Prothonotary, **1938:** 21, 30, 46, 48; **1939:** 3, 27, 28, 60, 71; **1940:** 73.
Warbler, Swainson's, **1940:** 37, 48, 106, 111, 112.
Warbler, Sycamore, **1938:** 45, 50; **1939:** 3, 4, 27, 33, 54, 60, 62; **1940:** 58.
Warbler, Tennessee, **1938:** 3, 97; **1939:** 3, 4, 33, 42; **1940:** 34, 77.
Warbler, Wayne's, **1940:** 68.
Warbler, Wilson's, **1938:** 67; **1939:** 3, 57, 58; **1940:** 76, 77.
Warbler, Worm-eating, **1938:** 45; **1939:** 3, 31, 57; **1940:** 49, 54, 77.
Warbler, Yellow, **1938:** 25, 45, 54, 70; **1939:** 3; **1940:** 34, 49, 54, 64.
Warbler, Yellow-throated, **1938:** 45; **1940:** 73.
Water-thrush, Grinnell's, **1939:** 46.
Water-thrush, Louisiana, **1938:** 4, 45, 48, 53; **1939:** 3, 33, 36, 42, 43, 54; **1940:** 49, 58, 73.
Water-thrush, Northern, **1939:** 3; **1940:** 31, 103.
Water Turkey, **1939:** 27, 59, 60; **1940:** 76, 116.
Waxwing, Cedar, **1938:** 3, 8, 13, 15-17, 25, 27, 29, 44, 69, 92, 98; **1939:** 3, 5, 7, 13, 14, 21, 32, 34, 81; **1940:** 6, 22, 23, 28, 49, 54, 61, 112.
Whip-poor-will, **1938:** 44; **1939:** 3, 33; **1940:** 56.
Willett, Western, **1939:** 56, 57.
Woodcock, **1938:** 44; **1939:** 3, 4, 6, 9, 13, 33, 55, 74; **1940:** 21, 23, 27, 28, 56, 112.
Woodpecker, Downy, **1938:** 2, 7, 16, 17, 44, 47, 48, 70, 71, 92; **1939:** 3, 5, 6, 33, 43, 52, 60, 67, 81; **1940:** 6, 22, 23, 31, 57, 73, 112.
Woodpecker, Northern Downy, **1939:** 45.
Woodpecker, Hairy, **1938:** 2, 7, 16, 17, 44, 47, 48, 70, 71, 92; **1939:** 3, 5, 6, 33, 43, 52, 60, 67, 81; **1940:** 6, 22, 23, 31, 57, 73, 112.
Woodpecker, Ivory-billed, **1940:** 60, 61.
Woodpecker, Pileated, **1938:** 7, 16, 17, 44, 52, 71; **1939:** 3, 5, 6, 9, 27, 43, 52, 60, 63, 81; **1940:** 22, 23, 31, 57.
Woodpecker, Red-bellied, **1938:** 7, 15-17, 48, 70; **1939:** 3, 5, 6, 27, 32, 43, 52, 81; **1940:** 22, 23, 57.
Woodpecker, Red-cockaded, **1940:** 54.
Woodpecker, Red-headed, **1938:** 6, 7, 16, 18, 70, 71; **1939;** 3, 5, 6, 9, 32, 43, 52, 67; **1940:** 22-24, 26, 35, 57, 64, 75.
Wren, Bewick's, **1938:** 3, 7, 16, 18, 47, 54, 70; **1939:** 3, 5, 6, 8, 45, 56, 67, 81; **1940:** 22, 23, 26, 27, 57, 63, 73, 77.
Wren, Carolina, **1938:** 3, 7, 11, 16, 17, 31, 44, 46-48, 50, 51, 54, 70, 71, 92; **1939:** 3, 5, 7, 27, 53, 62, 67, 78, 81; **1940:** 22, 23, 27, 35, 57, 61, 63, 64, 73, 77, 116.
Wren, House, **1939:** 7.
Wren, Ohio House, **1939:** 45; **1940:** 30.
Wren, Long-billed Marsh, **1938:** 7.
Wren, Short-billed Marsh, **1938:** 63, 64, 97; **1939:** 3, 75.
Wren, Winter, **1938:** 1, 3, 7, 33, 38, 43, 44, 50, 69; **1939:** 3, 5, 6, 43, 45, 75; **1940:** 22, 23, 26, 31.
Wren, Southern Winter, **1940:** 31.

Yellow-legs, Greater, **1938:** 30; **1939:** 32, 74.
Yellow-legs, Lesser, **1938:** 28, 30, 95; **1939:** 3, 15, 57, 74; **1940:** 76.
Yellow-throat, Maryland, **1938:** 19, 25, 31, 45-48, 54, 69, 70; **1939:** 3, 8, 29, 54, 66; **1940:** 37, 49, 64, 73.
Yellow-throat, Northern, **1940:** 30, 59, 68.

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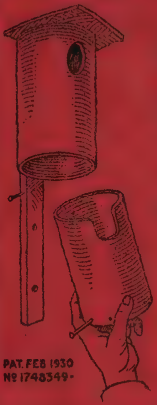

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# THE MIGRANT

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## THROUGH THE SEASONS WITH THE CARDINAL

By Albert F. Ganier

If there be a spell of warm, sunny weather in mid-January, one may rather confidently expect to hear the first cheery spring song of the Cardinal*. On such occasions he is most apt to mount to the topmost branch of a tall tree. From time to time during February his song is heard and by early March it is given all through each day. Almost unique among our song birds is the female of the species, for she, too, indulges in song during the breeding season. Her song is that of the male but is softer and is usually rendered from the lower branches and shrubbery.

In early March the winter flocks pair off and scatter, beginning their nests as soon as the thickets begin to turn green with early leaves. Favored sites for early nests are small red cedar trees, honeysuckle vines, and briar patches. In the cities, where are planted many hedges of Amoor River privet, this early leafing shrub is much favored. Courtship at my feeding shelf is evidenced by the feeding of the female by the male. No such consideration is accorded her during early winter, but a touch of spring-like weather during late January brings out this demonstration of a changing attitude. During the few weeks preceding nesting the male becomes quite tender in his attentions, and his mate follows him about on his rounds. If another male intrudes upon the territory, he is pursued in flight until he leaves, but I have never seen an actual combat, such as we often witness between English Sparrows. The female, too, is jealous of her territory. In *The Migrant* for March, 1938, Miss Reed writes of a female Cardinal that fought her reflection in a window pane.

The first nest is built with great care, consuming from two to three weeks. When the nest is finished, a week will sometimes elapse before the first egg is laid. Late nests contain much less material and are often carelessly built. Cardinal nests follow a distinct pattern and may readily be identified when either new or old. Their outer structure is a thin 'basket' of vines, weed stems, and slender twigs, and into this is laid several layers of leaves and occasionally bits of paper and finally a lining of rootlets and grass stems. Building and forming of the nest is done chiefly by the female, although the male also assists. If he brings material while she is engaged in weaving the nest, she takes it from him and he flies away for more. Nests were built each year in a privet a few feet from my bedroom window and when seated in a chair just inside, the birds paid no attention to our presence.

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*Eastern Cardinal (*Richmondena cardinalis cardinalis*)

APR 11 1941

Cardinals are among our earliest nesters, my earliest date at Nashville being of a completed set on April 3. Laying usually begins between April 10 and 20, as between early and late seasons. A full clutch is three eggs, although about one nest in thirty will contain four. Late summer nests often have but two eggs. The ashy-white shells are thickly spotted with shades of brown, occasionally forming a distinct wreath at the large end. One egg in each set is always more lightly marked than the others.

Incubation is carried on solely by the female and she is not infrequently caught on the nest by cats while incubating or brooding. These nocturnal prowlers will stealthily climb the bush under the nest at night and the female, being reluctant to leave without seeing its enemy, suddenly is caught by a paw quickly thrust over the rim of the nest from below. This has happened on my premises a number of times.

Both parents attentively feed the young and upon leaving the nest these young are prone to wander aimlessly. The male usually keeps up with one and the female with the other; more often than not the third is lost within a few days. The young are slow at learning to feed and permit the kindly father bird to feed them for six or eight weeks after leaving the nest. This is especially true of the last brood, for they are not thrust aside by the needs of later broods. Their food at this time consists largely of caterpillars, and the parents spend much time in the trees, searching the leaves after the manner of vireos.

Two or three broods are raised each season, the attempt for a third brood being dependent upon fairly wet conditions during mid-summer. In other words, if a drouth is in progress at the time a third nesting is due to begin, the birds will abandon the attempt. This is because weather too dry and hot is apt to prevent hatching of the eggs and also creates a scarcity of insect life upon which the young are dependent. Cardinals as well as other birds have enough intelligence to recognize the presence of these unfavorable conditions and to be guided accordingly.

For some weeks after leaving the nests the young are appreciably smaller than the adults, are rather stupid in their actions, and fall an easy prey to cats, small hawks, and Screech Owls. Their lusty cries for food from daylight to dusk are an open invitation to these predators to 'come and have lunch'. Until early fall the plumage of the young is a brownish, dull 'mouse color' with beak of slaty-black color. In early fall one can note that the beaks are developing coral-red spots, and these grow until by cold weather the beaks have become entirely red. During this time, also, the post-juvenal molt is proceeding, the new feathers being like those of the adult birds, and until completed the young present a dappled appearance. The fresh fall plumage of the females presents a creamy appearance upon the breast with an overcast of rose-red. By spring the thus tinted tips of the feathers have worn off and the females' breasts become a uniform buff in color. Fall males have whitish tips to their otherwise uniform red plumage and are therefore less brilliant than in spring after the tips have worn off. Occasionally one will see a tail-less Cardinal after an ice-storm or heavy freeze. This is because of the tail becoming frozen to a limb behind its roosting perch. New tail feathers begin quickly and in the case of an individual that came daily to my feeding shelf, the new tail was practically full-length again in six weeks. Those who make up bird skins for study purposes know that the skin of the Cardinal is very thin and much more easily torn than that of other birds.

As previously stated most Cardinals gather in flocks during the fall and remain thus during the winter, for the mutual protection afforded by many pairs of eyes. They mix freely at such times with Towhees, native sparrows, Titmice, and other species. Established pairs about residential grounds are, however, apt to remain thus paired as residents through the winter. Their favorite food at this time is the seed of the giant ragweed (*ambrosia trifida*) and the fruit of the hackberry (*celtis*). They feed upon the ground considerably, too, and at such times pick up a great variety of other weed seed. In eating hackberries they do not swallow the entire fruit and digest the unimpaired seed pits as do other birds. Instead, they 'chew' the fruit in their strong beaks until they have removed the sweet skinlike covering and toss aside the hard core. In dry weather they prefer to hunt these berries on the ground under the trees, for the ground moisture has swelled and softened the covering, and it is not only more palatable but more easily removed. I have watched as many as twenty Cardinals at a time on my lawn thus feeding upon these always abundant fruit. The seed of the giant ragweed are enclosed in a hard, horny burr, but this is readily split apart by the Cardinals and only the sweet nutlike center is eaten. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks are also able to split these burrs and are quite partial to them in autumn. W. L. McAtee, of the Biological Survey, in listing the food of the 'redbird', does not mention the ragweed, perhaps because the emacerated kernel is difficult to identify. He states that from an economic standpoint the Cardinal is one of our most beneficial birds with regard to food habits. Its value from an aesthetic standpoint is even greater.

The birds that make up the flocks in fall gather together in numbers of from six to twenty-five depending probably on the amount of cover and food supply available. If one comes across such a flock, he will find that they become alarmed and rapidly move on beneath the screen of brush and briars. Sometimes one may follow an overgrown ditch bank and see no birds ahead, but when he arrives at the end of it, several Cardinals will emerge and take flight. When feeding on the ground they do not scratch like Towhees but hop about looking for food and sometimes tossing a leaf aside in order to look beneath it. Only occasionally do the birds engage in distant flights but at times they will fly several hundred yards at a distance of as much as a hundred feet above the ground.

During the winter they roost where they may find the best cover and protection. Where cedar trees are available, they often repair to these or to thickets overgrown with evergreen honeysuckle. Briar patches are also favored places for, although there may be no green leaves to protect, there is usually a mixture of grass, and the briars ward off most marauders. In the city suburbs the evergreen Amoor River privet hedges are favored roosting spots. When the birds are ready to go to roost they utter frequent 'chipping' notes before settling down to sleep for the night. One winter at my home the hedge leaves were killed in mid-winter by the cold, whereupon the pair of Cardinals that fed daily at my shelf, began to roost in my neighbor's garage.

Winter flocks become smaller in size as the season progresses, due to mortality. I do not believe the birds ever lack food, even in coldest weather, for hackberries and ragweed are always above the snow. Owls probably get a few, but their chief winter enemies in the country are the Cooper's and Sharp-shinned Hawks. I have often come upon a pile of Cardinal feathers that marked the scene of a raptorial feast. In January, 1941, Dr. W. M. Spofford saw a Sharp-shinned Hawk carrying a Cardinal in its talons. A few weeks later, on February 15, 1941, we flushed a Cooper's Hawk from a pile of fresh Cardinal feathers in a deep ditch. Nothing whatever remained of this victim but the bright red feathers and even its head with the heavy bill had been swallowed by the hawk, to be disgorged later. In spite of predators, however, Cardinals survive the winter in greater numbers than most of our birds, and there remains an ample quota to begin the breeding season in spring. Based on a long series of Christmas census lists taken about Nashville, the Cardinal is second only to the Slate-colored Junco, in abundance, the average number recorded on these lists being one hundred and fifty individuals.

Beginning in 1923 the writer banded many Cardinals at his home and learned something in this way of their habits. One fact of interest was that although his premises were visited almost daily by a flock, the personnel of this flock was constantly changing. In addition to these roving birds, however, a resident pair remained about the place all through the year. Among these early banded Cardinals was a male that lived to the unprecedented age of more than thirteen years. It was first banded on February 12, 1924, and during its last years was trapped several times each year and was last seen, in poor physical condition, on November 20, 1936. This bird and its mate fed daily on a shelf at my dining room window, they nested in shrubs about the house, and it was thus my privilege to chronicle the history of this individual, perhaps the oldest small wild bird of which there has been record. Its history was published serially in *The Wilson Bulletin*, issues of December, 1933, December, 1934, December, 1935, and March, 1937.

NASHVILLE, March, 1941.

## WHERE TO LOOK

BY BENJ. R. WARRINER

Birds as a subject for study may be approached from a wide and interesting variety of angles. Each subdivision of the general subject has within itself material enough to permanently hold the attention of the student. For instance, each species or subspecies of the general family of birds is a subject within itself. And of course there are the matters of the habitats of birds, their food, nesting habits, roosting habits, songs, body shapes, sizes, colors, migration, economic worth, esthetic worth; eggs—number, color, and size; the number of broods per annum; frequency of occurrence and distribution in summer and winter.

Among all of these phases of bird life, none is more absorbing than the subject of habitat. Nature evidently has a keen appreciation of bird life for she has distributed it far and wide, and placed it into every nook and corner in practically all parts of the out-of-doors world.

There are birds of the trees, birds of the ground, birds of the air, birds of the water. And there are birds of the mountains, of the meadows, of open fields, of the hedges, of swamps, of dry and parched areas. There are birds that fly almost endlessly, and birds that spend most of their lives on the ground, never taking to their wings except in great emergencies. Nothing adds more to the pleasure of a bird hike than the ability to enter a particular kind of terrain knowing in advance the special kinds of birds that are apt to be found there. A personal experience last spring proves the point. With a fellow hiker I came to an open slough, lined on one side by a thick skirt of woods and on the other by open country. The banks were muddy and sloped back barely above the water's level. I remarked to my companion that it was a perfect spot for sandpipers. We looked and sure enough there appeared three Spotted Sandpipers and one Solitary; then a Little Blue Heron took wing. Half a mile farther we came to a meadow lush with deep grasses. I suggested that Bobolinks range in such places during spring migration, and that a walk through the place doubtless would result in the flushing of that species. While we talked the matter over, the Bobolinks doubtless heard us and decided to be quite accommodating, for a small drove of them flew up and came down again midst the reeds. A ditch bank heavily covered with grass produced three kinds of sparrows, the identical ones we expected to flush there. A great hawk approached us from up the shallow valley, flying low over the ground. We predicted that it would prove to be a Marsh Hawk, judging almost entirely by the surrounding area. A Marsh it was.

It is true, of course, that a good many birds cover ranges of wide varieties. Robins, for instance, may be found both in the heavy woods and in open country; in trees and on the ground. In the spring they stick more to the meadows and fields where there is little growth of grass, where they feed largely on worms and grubs pulled from the soft, damp earth. In fall and winter they are found in the bottoms where they search for small berries. They nest, as all know, in trees and sometimes in nooks in houses and other structures.

At the other extreme the Brown Creeper is never found except in the woods, and even there the bird confines itself to the trunks of trees. Almost without exception the Brown Creeper begins his search for food at the bottom of a tree and works upward. When as high as he wants to go, this little feathered apparition darts swiftly to the bottom of another tree trunk nearby, and starts his performance all over again. It is a matter of up and down, up and down, all day long.

White-throated Sparrows may be found in both woods and fields, but preferably in woods where thickets are abundant. Field Sparrows, as the name suggests, live in old fields, though an occasional one is seen in thickets. Larks, too, are birds of the open country; though in flying cross-country they do stop in wooded places; they nest in the grass, and feed on the ground. Bob-whites are birds of the ground, feeding and nesting there. Usually they are found in the fields, yet it is not unusual for a covey to be flushed in the woods and especially in heavy thickets. Doves are seed and grain eaters, hence live for the most part on the ground. At certain seasons they roost in trees and of course at all times the favorite parking place for a Dove is a limb of a dead tree, a vantage point that enables the bird to have clear vision in all directions. This interesting Dove finds all of his food open on the ground. He cannot open pod or shuck, nor does he pull a single bit from vine or twig.

Most of the Woodpeckers are birds of the trees, though the Flicker frequently ventures into the fields where he may be flushed from the ground. I have seen possibly a thousand Wood Thrushes but never one far from wood or bottom or other spots where trees grow. The Shrike prefers a wire along a roadside or perhaps a low dead limb. Beneath him in the grass he discovers a hapless grasshopper and pounces upon it. Sometimes he attacks some small and defenseless bird.

Almost without exception wading and shore birds must be looked for in the marshes, along ponds and streams, and on shores of bays and other bodies of water, both fresh and salt. True, some of the so-called water birds nest on dry ground, yet water is not far away and to the water they soon go with their new broods.

In a word, certain kinds of birds are found in certain kinds of places. If the bird student is well posted on this matter of habitat, he is able to economize both in time and in distance, as he searches for his feathered friends.
CORINTH, MISSISSIPPI, March, 1941.

# ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CENSUS

BY OUR MEMBERS

Our twelfth annual state-wide mid-winter or Christmas Census of birdlife is given in the following two tables. Thirteen localities in the state are represented, one less than last year. After five annual trips to the Montgomery Bell Park at White Bluff, by a committee from the Nashville chapter, the project was considered completed and no census was made there this year. No lists were received from Henderson and Humboldt. Reelfoot Lake appears again (previously made in 1934) and a census was taken at Mt. Pleasant by Henry M. Stevenson, Jr. Mr. and Mrs. Stevenson also slipped home from Vanderbilt campus and participated in censuses at Tuscaloosa, Foley, and Birmingham, Alabama which are given in the *Audubon Magazine* (formerly *Bird-Lore*). An earlier census by Stevenson at Florence, Ala. is also included herewith. As usual the Rosedale, Miss. list is included but Corinth is absent for the first time. Two other Mississippi lists by Memphis members—Tupelo and Hickory Flat—are included because they have been in *Bird-Lore* in previous years. This year they were made after the *Audubon Magazine's* date limit due to the Reelfoot trip. The Moon Lake, Miss. list was inserted at the last minute for purposes of comparison, altho it is given in the *Audubon Magazine*. Tennessee lists published therein (1941, supplement to Vol. XLIII, No. 1, pp. 117-118) are from Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Greeneville, Memphis, Nashville, and Reelfoot Lake.

The highest single list is 72 species from Memphis, one less than the record set last year from the same locality. The composite list for all Tennessee reports embraces 93 compared with 96 in 1939 and 92 in 1938. Species appearing in *The Migrant's* census lists for the first time: for Tennessee—Leconte's Sparrow; for adjacent areas—see Addenda bottom of Table I. Reappearing on Tennessee lists are Red-breasted Nuthatch, Prairie Marsh Wren, Pine Siskin, and Chipping Sparrow. Dropped from last year's list are Eastern Turkey and Barn Owl. The American Egret and Shoveller (out-of-state) are also missing. Seven species—Horned Grebe, Gadwall, Green-winged and Blue-winged Teals, Wood Duck, Ruddy Duck, and American Merganser—are dropped from Tennessee lists but are present in the other censuses. The Nashville list, due to a belated report on Cowbirds, has one more species than is shown in the *Audubon Magazine*.

| TABLE I | Nashville Dec. 22, 1940 | Clarksville Dec. 22 | Norris Dec. 24 | Gt. Smoky Park Dec. 22 | Reelfoot Lake Dec. 25 | Memphis Dec. 22 | Moon Lake, Miss Dec. 29 | Rosedale, Miss. Dec. 22 | Tupelo, Miss. Jan. 1, 1941 | Florence, Ala. Dec. 16 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Number of Species | 66 | 52 | 38 | 42 | 55 | 72 | 66 | 62 | 54 | 53 |
| Number of Individuals | 2832 | 1723 | 812 | 1667 | 23265 | 8993 | 3673 | 5119 | 1158 | 586 |
| Number of Observers | 27 | 8 | 2 | 28 | 5 | 23 | 11 | 3 | 3 | 1 |
| Pied-billed Grebe | 1 | .... | 5 | .... | 2 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 13 | 2 |
| **Double-crested Cormorant** | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 270 | 28 | .... | .... |
| Great Blue Heron | 1 | .... | 1 | .... | 1 | 1 | 3 | 5 | .... | .... |
| Canada Goose | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 45 | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Common Mallard | 7 | 9 | 102 | .... | .... | 12 | 31 | 275 | 166 | 1 |
| Black Duck | 8 | 7 | 311 | .... | .... | 2 | 2 | 400 | 27 | 35 |
| Baldpate | .... | .... | .... | .... | 2 | .... | .... | 9 | 34 | .... |
| American Pintail | .... | .... | 3 | .... | .... | 20 | .... | .... | 1 | 3 |
| **Green-winged Teal** | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 65 | 12 | 1 |
| Ring-necked Duck | 31 | 42 | 1 | .... | 2 | 16 | .... | 155 | 172 | .... |
| Canvas-back | .... | .... | .... | .... | 2 | .... | .... | 14 | 11 | 1 |
| Lesser Scaup | 14 | .... | .... | .... | 11 | 38 | 16 | 750 | 60 | .... |
| American Golden-eye | 5 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| **Buffle-head** | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 9 | 3 | .... | .... |
| Hooded Merganser | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 100 | 11 | .... | .... |
| Turkey Vulture | 1 | 3 | .... | 1 | .... | 8 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 7 |
| Black Vulture | 122 | .... | .... | .... | 2 | 6 | 9 | 8 | 2 | .... |
| Cooper's Hawk | 2 | .... | 1 | .... | .... | 7 | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Red-tailed Hawk | 3 | .... | .... | 2 | 6 | 36 | 4 | 7 | .... | .... |
| Red-shouldered Hawk | 3 | 3 | .... | .... | 4 | 9 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Marsh Hawk | 1 | 2 | .... | .... | 3 | 7 | 8 | 8 | .... | .... |
| Duck Hawk | .... | .... | .... | 1 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Sparrow Hawk | 21 | 3 | 1 | .... | 1 | 19 | 10 | 3 | 3 | 2 |
| Ruffed Grouse | .... | .... | .... | 10 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Bob-white | 25 | 37 | 20 | 9 | .... | 62 | 25 | 9 | 4 | .... |
| American Coot | 3 | .... | .... | .... | .... | 3 | .... | 2000 | 3 | .... |
| Killdeer | 35 | 17 | 3 | .... | .... | 58 | 70 | 38 | 11 | 3 |
| Wilson's Snipe | 5 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1 | .... | .... | 1 |
| Herring Gull | 1 | .... | 1 | .... | 1 | 8 | 8 | .... | .... | 7 |
| Ring-billed Gull | .... | .... | .... | .... | 4 | 30 | 40 | 18 | 3 | 26 |
| Unidentified Gulls | .... | .... | .... | .... | 20 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Mourning Dove | 178 | 39 | .... | .... | 1 | 105 | 66 | 43 | 37 | .... |
| Screech Owl | 1 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Great Horned Owl | 1 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Barred Owl | 2 | .... | .... | .... | 3 | 1 | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Belted Kingfisher | 9 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Flicker | 23 | 13 | .... | 2 | 14 | 124 | 8 | 17 | 11 | 5 |
| Pileated Woodpecker | 9 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 13 | .... | .... | 5 | .... | 1 |
| Red-bellied Woodpecker | 16 | 10 | 1 | .... | 12 | 59 | 6 | 8 | 5 | 2 |
| Red-headed Woodpecker | .... | 1 | .... | .... | 8 | 31 | 1 | 1 | 4 | .... |
| Yellow-bellied Sapsucker | 2 | 1 | .... | 1 | 2 | 15 | .... | .... | 1 | 1 |
| Hairy Woodpecker | 7 | 2 | .... | 11 | 11 | 13 | 1 | .... | 1 | .... |
| Downy Woodpecker | 35 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 13 | 38 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 3 |
| Phoebe | .... | 1 | 1 | .... | .... | 3 | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Prairie Horned Lark | 95 | 80 | .... | .... | .... | 43 | 8 | .... | .... | .... |

| TABLE I—Cont. | Nashville<br>Dec. 22, 1940 | Clarksville<br>Dec. 22 | Norris<br>Dec. 24 | Gt. Smoky Park<br>Dec. 22 | Reelfoot Lake<br>Dec. 25 | Memphis<br>Dec. 22 | Moon Lake, Miss<br>Dec. 29 | Rosedale, Miss.<br>Dec. 22 | Tupelo, Miss.<br>Jan. 1, 1941 | Florence, Ala.<br>Dec. 16 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Blue Jay | 28 | 40 | .... | 1 | 38 | 314 | 1 | 5 | 43 | 5 |
| Raven | .... | .... | .... | 5 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Crow | 64 | 312 | 6 | 220 | 11 | 90 | 52 | 17 | 4 | 7 |
| Chickadees* | 135 | 47 | 13 | 145 | 39 | 132 | .... | 12 | 2 | 4 |
| Tufted Titmouse | 65 | 41 | 16 | 31 | 5 | 130 | 1 | 8 | 15 | 13 |
| White-breasted Nuthatch | 6 | 3 | 2 | .... | .... | 11 | .... | .... | .... | 2 |
| Red-breasted Nuthatch | .... | .... | .... | 46 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Brown Creeper | 4 | 1 | .... | 2 | 5 | 21 | .... | 5 | 4 | 2 |
| Winter Wren | 5 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 12 | 1 | 3 | .... | 1 |
| Bewick's Wren | 2 | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1 | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Carolina Wren | 12 | 16 | 5 | 10 | 19 | 68 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 8 |
| Prairie Marsh Wren | .... | .... | .... | .... | 6 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Mockingbird | 51 | 6 | .... | 1 | 3 | 57 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Brown Thrasher | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1 | 11 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 1 |
| Robin | 7 | 2 | .... | 3 | 47 | 103 | 1 | 7 | .... | .... |
| Hermit Thrush | 1 | 1 | 3 | 13 | 2 | 21 | 1 | .... | .... | .... |
| Bluebird | 100 | 40 | 26 | 19 | .... | 59 | 1 | .... | 5 | 7 |
| Golden-crowned Kinglet | .... | 1 | .... | 18 | 19 | 83 | 2 | 35 | .... | 12 |
| Ruby-crowned Kinglet | .... | .... | .... | 5 | 3 | 25 | 1 | 18 | 1 | 3 |
| American Pipit | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 5 | .... | 73 | 5 | 20 |
| Cedar Waxwing | 21 | 16 | 2 | 4 | .... | 56 | 1 | .... | .... | .... |
| Shrike | 2 | .... | .... | 1 | 1 | 41 | 14 | 52 | 4 | 6 |
| Starling | 302 | 136 | 9 | .... | 182 | 843 | 58 | .... | 4 | 1 |
| Myrtle Warbler | 5 | 6 | 8 | 2 | 13 | 108 | 5 | 72 | 4 | 1 |
| English Sparrow | 200 | 68 | 74 | 30 | 75 | com. | 108 | .... | 36 | 58 |
| Meadowlark | 56 | 47 | 2 | .... | 7 | 728 | 248 | 19 | 70 | 20 |
| Red-wing | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1886 | 7 | 10 | 50 | 62 | 100 |
| Rusty Blackbird | 25 | 41 | .... | .... | 206 | 140 | .... | .... | .... | 1 |
| Bronzed Grackle | 24 | .... | .... | .... | 234 | 135 | 4 | 100 | 25 | .... |
| Unidentified Blackbirds | .... | .... | .... | .... | 20000 | 1175 | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Cowbird | 8 | 2 | .... | .... | 1 | 228 | .... | 150 | .... | .... |
| Cardinal | 282 | 189 | 5 | 65 | 81 | 251 | 12 | 17 | 16 | 27 |
| Purple Finch | 10 | .... | 5 | 11 | .... | 72 | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Pine Siskin | .... | .... | .... | 400 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Goldfinch | 70 | 11 | 13 | 53 | 12 | 130 | 6 | .... | 13 | 7 |
| Towhee | 52 | 24 | 5 | 8 | .... | 55 | 1 | 9 | 2 | 16 |
| Savannah Sparrow | 5 | .... | .... | 2 | .... | 28 | 133 | .... | 4 | 7 |
| Leconte's Sparrow | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 2 | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Vesper Sparrow | .... | 4 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 9 | .... | .... |
| Juncos* | 377 | 196 | 15 | 220 | 87 | 525 | 37 | 352 | 17 | 14 |
| Tree Sparrow | 3 | 1 | .... | .... | 16 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Field Sparrow | 37 | 28 | 95 | 180 | 30 | 351 | 89 | .... | 53 | 27 |
| White-crowned Sparrow | 32 | 2 | .... | .... | .... | 100 | 20 | .... | 1 | .... |
| White-throated Sparrow | 76 | 100 | 20 | 59 | 64 | 773 | 110 | 61 | 7 | 85 |
| Fox Sparrow | 23 | 3 | .... | .... | 10 | 92 | 3 | 5 | .... | 2 |
| Swamp Sparrow | 19 | 23 | 3 | .... | 7 | 93 | 2 | .... | .... | 5 |
| Song Sparrow | 56 | 30 | 25 | 64 | 14 | 184 | 24 | 94 | 10 | 16 |
| Lapland Longspur | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 911 | 35 | .... | 158 | .... |

### TABLE I ADDENDA

Listed for the first time:

Rosedale, Miss.: King Rail, 1; Lesser Yellow-legs, 3; Least Sandpiper, 1; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 7. See also notes with census data.

Moon Lake, Miss.: Short-eared Owl, 2; Western Meadowlark, 1; see 'The Season—Memphis Area Census Notes'.

Also not listed in Tennessee:

Moon Lake, Miss.: Horned Grebe, 11; Ruddy Duck, 1480; American Merganser, 450; Red-breasted Merganser, 25; Burrowing Owl, 1 (second year).

Rosedale, Miss.: Gadwall, 14; Wood Duck, 4; House Wren, 2.

Tupelo, Miss.: Blue-winged Teal, 1.

Florence, Ala.; Bald Eagle, 1; Pine Warbler, 2.

### *SPECIAL NOTES

**Species in bold-face type in tables were not recorded in Tennessee.**

Chickadees—Carolina Chickadee only at every locality except the Great Smoky Mts. Nat'l. Park where both the Black-capped and Carolina were observed but not listed separately.

Shrike—should be Migrant Shrike except possibly some Loggerheads wintering at Memphis, Moon Lake, and Rosedale.

Bronzed Grackle—should be Purple Grackle for all East Tenn. censuses.

Juncos—should be Slate-colored Juncos at all localities except in the Great Smoky Mts. Park, the count for which includes both this species and the Carolina Junco.

## TABLE II

| | Covington Dec. 24 | Hickory Flat, Miss. Jan. 1, 1941 | Mt. Pleasant Dec. 14 | Murfreesboro Dec. 22 | Springfield Dec. 29 | Knoxville Jan. 1, 1941 | Greeneville Dec. 23 | Johnson City Dec. 22 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Number of Species | 27 | 30 | 34 | 30 | 37 | 42 | 33 | 44 |
| Number of Individuals | 557 | 881 | 520 | 913 | 918 | 1623 | 1661 | 1218 |
| Number of Observers | 1 | *1 | 1 | 3 | 10 | 10 | 2 | 6 |
| Great Blue Heron | ---- | ---- | ---- | ---- | ---- | 3 | 1 | ---- |
| Common Mallard | ---- | ---- | ---- | ---- | ---- | ---- | 1 | 4 |
| Ring-necked Duck | ---- | ---- | 9 | ---- | ---- | ---- | ---- | ---- |
| Turkey Vulture | ---- | 4 | ---- | 3 | 2 | ---- | 30 | 11 |
| Black Vulture | ---- | ---- | ---- | 187 | 5 | ---- | 20 | 1 |
| Cooper's Hawk | ---- | ---- | ---- | 2 | ---- | ---- | 1 | 1 |
| Red-tailed Hawk | 2 | 1 | ---- | ---- | ---- | ---- | 1 | ---- |
| Red-shouldered Hawk | 1 | ---- | ---- | ---- | 2 | ---- | ---- | 2 |
| Sparrow Hawk | ---- | 3 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 2 |
| Bob-white | ---- | ---- | 25 | ---- | ---- | ---- | ---- | 31 |
| Killdeer | ---- | ---- | 1 | 2 | ---- | 8 | ---- | 1 |
| Wilson's Snipe | ---- | ---- | ---- | ---- | ---- | 6 | ---- | 8 |
| Mourning Dove | 12 | 1 | ---- | 4 | 2 | 21 | 65 | 10 |
| Screech Owl | ---- | ---- | ---- | 1 | ---- | 1 | ---- | ---- |
| Belted Kingfisher | ---- | ---- | 3 | ---- | ---- | 4 | ---- | 1 |
| Flicker | 2 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 8 | 10 | 1 | 11 |
| Pileated Woodpecker | ---- | ---- | 1 | ---- | 2 | ---- | ---- | 1 |
| Red-bellied Woodpecker | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 14 | 4 | ---- | ---- |
| Yellow-bellied Sapsucker | 1 | ---- | ---- | ---- | 1 | 1 | 1 | ---- |
| Hairy Woodpecker | 2 | ---- | 2 | 2 | 3 | ---- | ---- | ---- |
| Downy Woodpecker | ---- | 1 | 10 | 3 | 12 | 18 | ---- | 7 |
| Prairie Horned Lark | ---- | ---- | ---- | 28 | 8 | ---- | 5 | 10 |
| Blue Jay | 20 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 41 | 8 | 1 | 14 |
| Crow | 300 | 2 | 35 | 273 | 63 | ---- | 1275 | 104 |
| Carolina Chickadee | ---- | 7 | 46 | 14 | 23 | 59 | 8 | 23 |
| Tufted Titmouse | ---- | 13 | 9 | 2 | 66 | 33 | 4 | 19 |
| White-breasted Nuthatch | ---- | ---- | ---- | ---- | 1 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Brown Creeper | ---- | 5 | 2 | ---- | 2 | 1 | ---- | 2 |
| Winter Wren | ---- | ---- | 5 | ---- | ---- | 1 | ---- | 1 |
| Bewick's Wren | ---- | ---- | 1 | ---- | ---- | 1 | 1 | ---- |
| Carolina Wren | 3 | 3 | 5 | ---- | 6 | 13 | 6 | 23 |
| Mockingbird | 3 | 3 | 2 | 15 | 2 | 20 | 3 | 11 |
| Robin | 30 | ---- | ---- | ---- | ---- | 69 | ---- | 88 |
| Hermit Thrush | ---- | ---- | ---- | ---- | 3 | ---- | ---- | 1 |
| Bluebird | 1 | 1 | 10 | 25 | 2 | 24 | 3 | 34 |
| Golden-crowned Kinglet | ---- | 19 | ---- | ---- | 2 | 3 | ---- | 21 |
| Shrike | 1 | 2 | ---- | 2 | ---- | ---- | ---- | 3 |
| Starling | ---- | 51 | 11 | 13 | 400 | 138 | 134 | 283 |
| Myrtle Warbler | 1 | 2 | ---- | 130 | ---- | 27 | 6 | 21 |
| Palm Warbler | ---- | ---- | ---- | ---- | ---- | 2 | 1 | ---- |
| English Sparrow | 30 | 10 | 105 | 25 | 47 | 75 | 22 | 135 |
| Meadowlark | 10 | 7 | 1 | 3 | 28 | 30 | 8 | 16 |
| Red-wing | ---- | 35 | ---- | ---- | ---- | ---- | ---- | ---- |
| Bronzed Grackle | 1 | 500 | ---- | ---- | ---- | ---- | ---- | ---- |
| Cardinal | 16 | 6 | 49 | 50 | 54 | 62 | 7 | 16 |
| Purple Finch | 3 | ---- | 3 | ---- | 1 | 9 | ---- | ---- |
| Goldfinch | 5 | ---- | 17 | 8 | 3 | 150 | 2 | 20 |
| Towhee | ---- | ---- | 7 | ---- | 39 | 14 | 2 | 3 |
| Savannah Sparrow | ---- | 3 | ---- | ---- | ---- | ---- | ---- | 12 |
| Slate-colored Junco | 30 | 58 | 29 | 80 | 37 | 63 | 26 | 94 |
| Field Sparrow | 20 | 68 | 35 | 4 | ---- | 222 | 10 | 27 |
| White-crowned Sparrow | 3 | ---- | 19 | 11 | ---- | 10 | 4 | ---- |
| White-throated Sparrow | 30 | 43 | 17 | 2 | 23 | 197 | 5 | 21 |
| Fox Sparrow | 8 | ---- | 1 | ---- | ---- | ---- | ---- | ---- |
| Swamp Sparrow | ---- | 2 | 15 | ---- | 1 | ---- | ---- | ---- |
| Song Sparrow | 20 | 19 | 34 | 10 | 5 | 62 | 2 | 55 |

### TABLE II ADDENDA

ALSO: Knoxville—Hooded Merganser, 1; American Woodcock, 1; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 4; Chipping Sparrow, 4 (Goddard, Yambert, and Walker at 30 feet).

Johnson City—Black Duck, 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1; Cedar Waxwing, 63.

Springfield—Marsh Hawk, 2; Barred Owl, 2; Tree Sparrow, 4.

Palm Warbler, in the above table, and Woodcock, Chipping Sparrow, and Sharp-shinned Hawk herein are Tennessee species additional to those listed in Table I. Hooded Merganser is not shown in boldface in Table I because of the Knoxville record herein.

NASHVILLE:—Dec. 22, 8 to 5; dense fog until 10, then clear; ground bare and wet; calm; temp. 31° to 47°. Radnor Lake, Overton Hills, Hillsboro, Hobbs and Harding Roads, Bellemeade, Percy Warner Park, Westmeade, Hill Estate, Jordonia Marsh, Marrowbone Lake and Creek, Cumberland River bottoms at 9th Ave. and above Shelby Park, Mill Creek, etc. 26 observers in 10 parties; total—79 party-hours. For comments on the list, see also 'The Season'.——Mr. and Mrs. B. H. Abernathy, Paul Bryant, M. S. Carter, Mrs. Sandford Duncan, A. F. Ganier (compiler), Wayland Hayes, Conrad Jamison, Jr., Mrs. Amelia R. Laskey, Harry C. Monk, G. R. Mayfield, Geo. Mayfield, Jr., Jas. Merritt, Mrs. Robt. Orr, C. E. Pearson, John Pritchett, Jas. Robins, E. D. Schreiber, J. M. Shaver, Wm. Simpson, W. R. Spofford, Mabel Slack, Mr. and Mrs. J. Murray Speirs, H. Tracy, H. S. Vaughn and Geo. B. Woodring. CLARKSVILLE:—Dec. 22, 8 to 5; dense fog until 10:30, gradually clearing, by 1 P.M. sunny; calm; temp. 30° to 46°. Period of cool and dry weather. Near Cumberland and Red Rivers, Roosevelt School; Dunbar's Cave, Meriwether farm, Spring Creek, River bottoms from Cunningham bridge to Edmondson ferry; below Palmyra, Hayne's Lake, Dotsonville; T. C. R. R. tracks to Mark's Slough, return along Cumberland River. 30 miles on foot; auto partially used. Total 28 party-hours.—Lamar Armstrong, Alfred, Sr., Alfred, Jr., and Edward Clebsch, Clarence Collier, Jr., Mrs. John Y. Hutchison, Dr. Chas. F. Pickering, and Curtis Swift.——NORRIS:—Dec. 24, 9 to 3; clear; light W. wind; temp. 28° to 50°. Norris and Caryville Lake. 20 miles by auto, 3 on foot.—W. M. Walker and Bill Yambert.——GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK, TENN.:—Dec. 22, 7:30 to 4:30; clear; ground frozen, thawing at low altitudes; wind light; temp. 25° to 62° in lowlands, colder in uplands. Same area as in past 3 years,—circle of 7½-mile radius centering on Bull Head of Mt. LeConte, and including a section of the Tenn.-N. C. divide from Siler's Bald to the Sawteeth; also the towns of Gatlinburg and Pigeon Forge, Tenn. Altitude range, 1200 to 6600 feet. 28 observers in 5 groups. Total 40 group-hours, 54 miles on foot, 69 miles by auto. A good seed crop of fir probably accounts for numbers of Red-breasted Nuthatches and Pine Siskins present. Also seen between Dec. 18-22: Sparrow Hawk, Turkey, Phoebe, and Red Crossbill.—William F. Alston, Mrs. Harvey Broome, Carlos C. Campbell, Mary Ruth Chiles, Edward W. Dougherty, Frelan Goddard, John J. Hay, Dr. Earl O. Henry, H. P. Ijams, Elizabeth, James, Robert, and Mr. and Mrs. William M. Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Leonhard, Dr. Henry Meyer, Elise Morrell, M. C. Myles, Jr., Richard Nevius, S. A. Ogden, Eugene Orr, Mrs. Ralph Penland, Willie Ruth Reed, A. R. Tuell, William M. Walker, Jr., William Yambert, and Arthur Stupka, Park Naturalist.——REELFOOT LAKE:—Dec. 25, 7:30 to 5; light mist and rain most of day; calm; temp. 51° to 54°. Mississippi River at Tiptonville and along lake by road to Samburg to Walnut Log. By auto 25 miles, occasional short stops; last 3 hours,—3 observers 6 miles on foot (along S. Side Upper Blue Basin and return) and 2 in boat, 1 mile. Total 12 party-hours.—Austin Burdick, Jr., Ben B. Coffey, Jr., Harold Elphingstone, Franklin McCamey, Jr., Virginia Taber.——MEMPHIS:—Dec. 22, 6:30 to 4:30; fog at start, lifting early, then fair; wet underfoot; calm; temp. 35° to 61°. Same territory as previous years, omitting Mud Island and Mound City Chute, adding lower end of Benjestown Rd.; better coverage due to separate party for Raleigh. 4 separate auto parties,—north, to Raleigh, southeast, and south;

all day; equal 7 groups when on foot, 3 to 6 miles for each. One on foot E. 8 miles, all day; 2 in Overton Park 4 hours and 2 at river front 1 hour; 1 in cruiser on river, late in afternoon. Total, 77 party-hours.—Austin Burdick, Jr., Fred Carney, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Coffey, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. John H. Embury, Fred Fiedler, Jr., Luther Keeton, Lawrence Kent, Dr. Louis Leroy, Joe Mason, Jr., Franklin McCamey, Jr., Dr. C. E. Moore, Alice Smith, Virginia Taber, Mrs. M. L. Torti, Robt. Tucker, Eugene Wallace, Billy Walker, Ben Welch, Jr., Bob White, Mary Frances White, and Neal Wyatt.——MOON LAKE, MISS.:—Dec. 29, 7:30 to 5:20; muddy underfoot; brisk wind, max. 16 m.p.h., white-caps on lake; temp. 42° to 54°. Highway just N. of Dundee to Lula, along E. and S. sides of Moon Lake, W. side along levee, thru bottoms to Helena Ferry, back N. end of lake, frequent stops with observers deploying slightly from one party. By auto 51 miles. No 40X telescope as in previous years but same would not have aided list of ducks materially. Negligible hunting at time of census.——Mr. and Mrs. Ben B. Coffey, Jr., Alice Smith, Austin Burdick, Jr., Joe Mason, Jr., Harold Elphingstone, Franklin McCamey, Jr., Virginia Taber, Ben Welch, John Pond, James Vardaman.——ROSEDALE, MISS.—Dec. 22, 9 to 5:15; clear; visibility good; temp. 47° to 54° to 44°. Rosedale to Legion Lake, thence to Lake Bolivar, and return via levee; 46 miles by auto, 4 miles on foot. Observers together.—Sammy M. Ray, Thomas Smith, and M. G. Vaiden. Special notes by latter: Not as many ducks and Coots at Lake Bolivar as usually found. Sparrows not as plentiful as normally expected. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers unusual here for mid-winter; one collected. Finding a Least Sandpiper is very unusual and upon examination of collected specimen we found nothing to indicate any reason this bird should have remained over this long. The three Lesser Yellowlegs were found nearby but they have been recorded here heretofore during early part of mid-winter. Not an owl heard or seen, although generally we have them singing nightly within the city limits during winter. Hawks were not as plentiful as to be expected. A beautiful male Marsh Hawk was seen and watched for an half-hour as he quartered a field near the levee. As a rule the males move much farther southward toward the southwestern part of Louisiana and I have few records for winter here. With exception of an early cold spell weather has been fairly mild with much rain during latter part of November and all of December.——TUPELO, MISS.:—Jan. 1, 8 to 4; overcast, slight drizzle 1 to 2, downpour at 4 p.m., ending trip; calm; temp. 50°. Memphis highway 6 miles W. of town, Legion Lake, Fish Hatchery, Gum Pond, Tombigbee State Park (and lake), and Hwy. 45 just S. of town.—Austin Burdick, Jr., Ben Coffey, Jr., Joe Mason, Jr.——FLORENCE, ALA.:—Dec. 16, 10 hours; fair; strong W. wind; temp. 46° to 52° to 45°. Also seen,—one Scoter, prob. Surf Scoter. Have had previous field experience with all three Scoters in adult plumage on Long Island. This bird was an immature and not seen in very good light. There is no doubt that it was one of the Scoters.—Henry M. Stevenson, Jr.——COVINGTON:—Dec. 24, 7 to 11; overcast; slight wind; cold; 2 miles on foot (Liberty area), 2 miles by auto (to one mile N. of town).—Alice Smith.——HICKORY FLAT, MISS.:—Jan. 1, 8:15 to 12:45; heavy mist, changing to rain; 4 miles on foot. Tupelo party by auto along highway 7 miles to Myrtle with stop at Spring Lakes.—Mrs. Ben B. Coffey, Jr.——MT. PLEASANT:—Dec. 14, 8½ hours; cloudy; medium N. wind;

temp. 40°.—Henry M. Stevenson, Jr.——MURFREESBORO:—Dec. 22, 8:30 to 5:00; cloudy and rain; light wind; temp. 38'.—Geo. Davis, Robt. Duckworth, H. O. Todd, Jr.——SPRINGFIELD:—Dec. 29, 9 to 4, cloudy and foggy; N. wind. 5 to 7 miles N. of town, in wet woods, big marsh, and old fields.—Alfred Clebsch, Clarence Collier, A. F. Ganier, Harold E. Hughes, Conrad Jamison, Arthur McMurray, H. C. Monk, C. F. Pickering, Wm. Simpson, Gordon Wilson.——KNOXVILLE:—Jan. 1; fair; light W. wind; temp. 35° to 50°. Highland Memorial cemetery, Lake Andrew Jackson, Island Home, Sander's Ridge, Lynnhurst Cemetery, Fountain City, and Harrill Hills. Observers in 5 parties. Total: 17 party-miles on foot; 10 party-hours afield.—Chas. Baird, Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Broome, Frelan Goddard, H. P. Ijams, Dr. and Mrs. Henry Meyer, A. R. Tuell, W. M. Walker, and Bill Yambert.——GREENEVILLE:—Dec. 23, 7:15 to 12, 1:30 to 4; clear; temp. 33° to 50°. Reed farm along Roaring Fork Creek, Lick Creek, Bay's Mt. 4 miles on foot, 12 miles by auto. The Great Blue Heron was apparently injured, observed at a range of 3 yards.—Richard Nevius and Willie Ruth Reed.——JOHNSON CITY: —Dec. 22, 7:15 to 5; fair; calm; temp. 28° to 50°. Ten miles around the city. —Ruby Doak, Elizabeth Dyer, Albert Hyder and W. M. Hendrix (Party 1); R. B. Lyle and Bruce P. Tyler (Party 2).

# RUFFED GROUSE IN TENNESSEE

BY JOHN C. CALDWELL

Ask a native Tennessean if there are any Ruffed Grouse in the state and he'll say "no." The mountain people know these birds as pheasants or mountain pheasants. It was not until a few years ago that it was known that there were any number of these birds left in the state. The grouse is subject to a seven to ten-year cycle of abundance and it may be that the birds have been upon the crest of a cycle during the past three or four years and are therefore more abundant than they have been for the past decade.

During the past five years I have hunted grouse extensively and have spent a good deal of time studying them and inquiring about them of the natives. To my surprise I find trustworthy reports of grouse occurrence within the past two years in Hickman, Davidson, Dickson, and Sumner Counties. I believe, however, that the birds are exceedingly rare in the Highland Rim. There are a few left along the Harpeth River and along Marrowbone Creek about fifteen miles west of Nashville.

Grouse are now common in the Cumberlands from the Kentucky line to the vicinity of Monteagle. They seem to disappear there and are quite rare in Franklin County. Farther east they are found throughout the mountainous areas but seem to be most common above an elevation of 1500 feet. They are very common in Monroe, Carter, and Johnson Counties.

Most of my studies of this grand bird have taken place in the Cumberlands. I have found them most abundant in Van Buren, Cumberland, Morgan, and Fentress Counties with the center of population seemingly in Cumberland County in the Peavine Mountains and around Ozone and a little settlement known as Dogwood.

During the fall and winter the 'pheasants' will be found almost exclusively along the streams and 'branches,' hiding among the laurel and rhododendron. When the weather is good they will venture out quite a way into the oak flats but will very rarely be found more than a half mile from the 'gulfs' and 'coves'.

In the spring and summer the range is greater and birds will be found far out in the oak and beech woods. I have found the birds drumming in nearly every month of the year but the main drumming season begins in March and extends through May. The food of the grouse that I have shot has consisted almost entirely of acorns and laurel leaves.

It is my belief that if woods fires can be controlled we will have very little worry about the grouse. Their habitat is so rough that hunters will never bother them to a great extent. The present state law is reasonable and affords ample protection.

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION, NASHVILLE, March, 1941.

# PLANTING TO ATTRACT BIRDS

BY FLOYD BRALLIAR

Anyone who understands the habits of birds realizes the importance of shrubbery in their life economy. This is especially true of the small birds whose lives would be in constant jeopardy from not only birds of prey but from predatory animals, were it not for shrubbery and thick bushy trees. Anyone who has ever watched a hawk chase a small bird, only to be forced to give up the chase when his intended prey darts into a bush or shrub will understand this. Thick shrubs are almost as great a protection against cats and other animals as they are against birds of prey. This being true, it is very important that those of us who are interested in the welfare of our birds should plant shrubs in strategic places. If we can plant shrubs that are not only thick and bushy but bear food for the birds also we have accomplished a double purpose.

Where should these shrubs be planted? The most important place is in close proximity to their bath or drinking place. A bird is doubly at the mercy of its foes immediately after it has taken a bath while its feathers are still wet. Therefore we should never put a bird bath on a lawn without having it in close proximity to one or more thick shrubs that stand higher than the bath.

In planting projects carried on by the United States government to serve the double purpose of stopping erosion and for the protection and feeding of birds, the common buckbrush (*symphoricarpos vulgaris*) is more widely used than any other plant. It is true that birds do not eat the berries of this plant until a real food shortage develops or until late spring, but it is equally true that they do ultimately eat most of the berries that grow on this plant. Cedar Waxwings are especially fond of these berries and do much to clear up the crop in early spring. In any territory that is visited by these birds, *berberis thunbergi*, commonly known as Japanese barberry, is also of special value for this purpose. It is decidedly ornamental at any time of the year. It contains enough thorns or spines to keep animals and birds of prey from entering it, yet it seems to offer no obstacle at all to small birds. It bears heavily and the bright red berries are eatable. We have frequently known of people making jelly from the fruit of this plant. Again, the birds do not usually eat these berries as long as there is an abundance of food more suited to their taste, but they eat it freely when other food is scarce.

The weeping mulberry or, for that matter, the tree mulberry are excellent to plant for birds. The weeping mulberry is especially desirable to plant near a bird bath, or in some out-of-way corner of the yard for it never reaches a very great height. The branches afford a very good protection to small birds. The Hick's everbearing mulberry is one of the best to plant. Both of these varieties of mulberry bear a large quantity of fruit over a long period of time and the birds are fond of it. We would prefer that it bore its fruit in the late fall and winter instead of in the spring and summer. However, the birds seem to make good use of it when it comes.

*Elaeagnus pungens* is evergreen and makes a reasonable good size and dense growth. It blooms in November and ripens its fruit in late winter and early spring. The birds are very fond of this fruit and it comes at a time when they need it most. In ordinary seasons these plants bear a heavy crop of fruit; although they may fail to bear fruit at all, especially in very cold winter. Most of the cotoneasters bear heavily and produce berries that are relished; moreover, they do not ripen until the middle of winter. Unfortunately, most of these are not hardy, except in the warmer parts of our state.

We might easily extend this list. The best shrubs are strawberry bush and spindlewood. Both are very satisfactory, although the birds are not enthusiastic over their berries when they can find plenty else to eat. The dwarf Juneberry only grows to the height of five or six feet and produces an abundance of early berries which are very much relished by man or birds. The bush is dense enough to fill all the requirements for protection and, as it is among the very first shrubs to bloom in the spring, is classed among the desirable for this purpose.

NASHVILLE, March, 1941.

# THE SEASON

MEMPHIS AREA:—The number of individual birds present this winter is roughly 25% less than normal, according to Coffey, based on Christmas Census trips from Reelfoot to Moon Lake and Memphis to Tupelo. The severe winter of last year evidently reduced last season's breeding stock. Notes on most of our field work then were crowded out of last March's issue but because of their unusual nature we hope to yet record them in these pages.——As a result of last season we have been on special lookout for the reappearance of Leconte's Sparrows, Tree Sparrows, and Lapland Longspurs. Tree Sparrows have been seen this year in the rows and fields just north of Galloway Park. First recorded were 5 on Feb. 8. On Feb. 17 we saw 12 and on Feb. 18 Geo. H. Lowery, Jr. collected 2 for the Louisiana State University museum. On Feb. 24 at least 15 were seen, this being the last record so far.——At this same locality a Harlan's Hawk was seen on Feb. 8, soaring with a normally-plumaged Red-tailed Hawk. At one time he was as close as 100 feet. On the 18th 3 Leconte's Sparrows were flushed from tall sedge grass here.——A Short-eared Owl was seen just south of Shelby Forest on Feb. 18, while on the same day Eugene Wallace and Lowery found 3 at the Municipal Airport along with about 200 Lapland Longspurs. On March 1 a similar flock of Longspurs were seen flying rapidly northward over Galloway golf course, near home.——An adult Gambel's Sparrow was seen on Feb. 17 about 7 miles east of the city limits. The next day this or a similar one was collected by Lowery. This is our third record this season. On Nov. 22, 1940, I banded an immature (repeating Jan. 17, 1941) and on Jan. 10, 1941, an adult (repeating Jan. 15).——While an old barn on our farm east of town was being torn down by workmen on Feb. 28, 1941, a Bewick's Wren's nest containing 7 eggs was found. This is a very early nesting record.——Nothing unusual was seen at Moon Lake, Miss. on Feb. 14 except a female Am. Golden-eye and 36 Horned Grebes. On Mar. 9 at Mud Lake (Miss.-Tenn.) we saw about 3,000 Mallards, 4,000 Pintails, 100 Green-winged Teals, 25 Baldpates, and 6 Shovellers.——On Mar. 8 I saw my first transient, a Purple Martin passing over home. This species was reported Mar. 5 by Mrs. John E. Hooper in the Normal section.——AUSTIN BURDICK, JR., Memphis.

MEMPHIS AREA CENSUS NOTES:—This area is liberally stretched at this writing. For the first time in four years the Memphis list (Dec. 22) included the Black Vulture. No party was able to find a Wilson's Snipe or a Pileated Woodpecker. The field near Joe Mason's where we recorded 4 Leconte's Sparrows last fall was afterwards partially mowed, then burnt off a week later. Thus we had to work to find this species. The writer and the north party spent over two hours of the afternoon in a special search but without success. Fortunately both Mrs. Coffey and Burdick recorded it separately. Red-tailed Hawks have been common, 36 being listed on the local census. The north party kept recounting Red-tails found overhead at a fire in a hedgerow and finally accounted for 8 individuals. Two of these were plainly seen to be Harlan's Hawks, the melanistic form. At Moon Lake on the 29th we found a Harlan's Hawk and sometime later about two miles to the east we saw either another or the same Harlan's.——Reelfoot Lake was revisited six years to the day since our last census there. As in 1934 we found small numbers of Tree Sparrows altho the 1934 census table shows our count opposite Chipping Sparrow. In 1934 at the end of a dreary afternoon the writer was able to carefully identify a Prairie Marsh Wren. The weather was more favorable this time and the Biological Station boat dock enabled us to walk out into the midst of the lake vegetation. At the end of the dock we heard and saw at least 4 of these Wrens. On a walk along the island 3 miles westward I found another at each of the two places where I waded out to hunt for this species. Woodpeckers seemed very common in the woods along the island. McCamey and Taber rowed out into the Lake. Only a few ducks were seen on the whole.——The Moon Lake list was inserted in the tabulations herein as space was readily available. It is a peculiar list, particularly in the fact that 17 species are represented by only one individual, all well verified. Often our land bird list there is short because: much time is spent checking the waterbirds; usually rainy weather keeps us in our cars; and scarcity of wooded territory. However, we had fair conditions this trip. One lone Jay on the list seems impossible. Last year's Leconte's Sparrow field was plowed up. We found the Leconte's and Short-eared field of last January (1940) about half mowed. Instead of 10 Leconte's as then recorded, there were none. Two Short-eared Owls were flushed, however. (On a return trip, January 12, with Albert F. Ganier, one Owl was flushed and one found freshly dead; it proved to have been shot.) Stopping to look at a hawk on each side of the highway a distinctive bird song greeted our ears. Almost at once several of us exclaimed, "Western Meadowlark!" altho none had ever heard this species. But the similarity and the dis-similarity were too readily noticeable. A flock of Meadowlarks were singing in an old cornfield. This particular bird was located again later and seen fairly close. Sight identification was not readily made but the song was repeatedly heard on four occasions by most of our party. One part of the song reminded one of the more melodious offerings of the Shrike. That evening we checked with a recording of an imitation by Gorst. Burdick, Mason, and Welch returned with Wallace the next day (Dec. 30) and found one. Wallace was unable to secure it.—BEN COFFEY, Memphis.

NASHVILLE AREA:—Dec. 1, 1940 - Mar. 1, 1941. A relatively open winter with one real snow, about 4 inches, Feb. 28. December and January averaged slightly above, February five degrees below normal. Precipitation is well below the average and all streams and pounds have been low through winter. An unequalled scarcity of birds has prevailed the entire winter. At least a third of our wintering species are affected; local observers consider the total bird population of this region to be about fifty per cent below normal. This condition first appeared in the fall when some birds which usually winter here (e.g. Robin, Field Sparrow, Starling, etc.) largely left with other transients. The expected increases due to migration into the region did not occur, as many winter visitant species are present in reduced numbers. A comparison of the Christmas census with that of other years gives a good picture of the situation. The number of species is about normal, but a third of them are at the lowest levels in 8 years. This is an accurate index of this winter's bird life as I have found it. It is most unusual for our local avia-fauna to remain static for such a long period with virtually no change in the species present or their status.——Species most affected, and the per cent of their reduction from normal: Robin, 95; Starling, 90; Myrtle Warbler and Hermit Thrush, 80; Field Sparrow, 75; Carolina Wren and Sapsucker, 66; White-throated, White-crowned and Swamp Sparrows, Junco, Mockingbird, Winter Wren and Golden-crowned Kinglet, 50; Red-bellied Woodpecker and Flicker, 33. Even English Sparrows appear somewhat below normal numbers. Species at or near normal: Sparrow Hawk, Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers, Blue Jay, Song and Fox Sparrows, Cardinal, Tufted Titmouse and Carolina Chickadee. Of course, no two observers would agree on all of the above figures, so varied is individual experience.——I can cite three causes in explanation. First, the severe weather of January, 1940. The species notably reduced at that time have not recovered. Carolina Wren and Killdeer are as scarce today as they were a year ago. The Kinglet, Winter Wren and Hermit Thrush vanished last winter and are rare today. A part of the shortage in some other species may also be traced to this cause. Second, the freezes of late March and April 12, 1940 which destroyed all the 1940 hackberry crop, much of the mast, and probably damaged some other fruit and seed crops. The hackberry failure drove the Robins and Starlings away and doubtless affected many other species in some degree. Thus last year's weather affects this year's bird life. Third, the near-drouth now prevailing. It is very noticeable that birds are now found chiefly in the immediate vicinity of water, while dry thickets and woods are deserted. I believe lack of food the principal cause of this winter's bird scarcity.

Some migration is evident. American Mergansers left Radnor lake at the end of January; Mallards, Gadwalls and most Black Ducks moved away in February. A pair of Hooded Mergansers appeared Feb. 11, while a flight of Pintails came in Feb. 14 and later. They were noted on the river Feb. 16 (AFG) and on a pond at Donelson Mar. 1. (GRM). No waterfowl have appeared on Centennial lake, which usually has transients this month. A few Doves moved into the Park and suburbs Jan. 31 and later, but their numbers are small and they are not yet spread over the countryside; their migration began on time but has not continued. First Robins were singles, Feb. 12, and 13 (Laskey), and 3 were seen at once Feb. 25, but they have been very slow coming in; the same may be said of Grackles. The return of these birds to their breeding grounds is a month late. The expected spring migration of the Starlings has not appeared.——No nesting records are available as but little search has been made for the few species breeding this early.——Song has been about normal. Carolina Wren, Titmouse and Chickadee are heard occasionally on field trips; all sing throughout the year. A Towhee began Dec. 30 at the writer's home, but voice was very poor until February. Cardinals first heard Jan. 11, and frequently afterwards. Mockers began in January on Vanderbilt Campus; Feb. 12 at Laskey's: Dove, Feb. 11 and almost daily afterward.

The usual rarities have rewarded the faithful (and lucky). A large gull in juvenal plumage, along river three successive December Sundays (Bryant and Jamison). Sharp-shinned Hawk, Jan. 11 and 12 and later (Spofford); immature Bald Eagle, Radnor Lake about Jan. 8 (Baker). Short-eared Owl, near Mt. Pleasant, Jan. 5. (Stevenson) and Jan. 10, Belle Meade Golf Links (HCM). Red-headed Woodpecker, Goodlettsville, Jan. 12, (Spofford) and Murfreesboro Jan. 13 (Dr. Vaughn). Tree Sparrows on Census (AFG) and Feb. 15 (Stevensons and HCM). Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Feb. 21, Edwin Warner Park (HCM).—HARRY C. MONK, Nashville.

NASHVILLE CENSUS NOTES:—The dense fog kept the 26 listers from doing effective work until after ten but considering the marked shortage of birds this winter, the final list was much better than had been hoped for. Only 65 ducks (5 species) were found on Radnor Lake though 225 had been observed there a few days before. The Pied-billed Grebe recorded had been wintering on Centennial Park lake. The Herring Gull and the Coot were listed on the Cumberland River by Bryant. Juncos as usual led the list in numbers with 377. Of the 178 Doves listed, 100 were in one flock. The chiefly gregarious species—Grackles, Robins, and Cowbirds—were practically absent during December and only a few could be found for the census. Carolina Wrens and Killdeers remain extremely scarce, presumably having been thinned out by last winter's severe cold. Towhees, White-throated, Swamp, and other Sparrows were noticeably scarce. Barn Owls, found at four locations last winter, were not 'at home' this Christmas. The Warner Park Black Vulture roost yielded 110 of these birds for the list. Two Migrant Shrikes, which had been 'tied out,' were found faithfully waiting at their posts. The Great Blue Heron was at the small Donelson pond; a day or two after, one was seen at Radnor Lake. Species conspicuous by their absence were the Kinglets, Phoebe, Barn Owl, Sharp-shinned Hawk and Red-headed Woodpecker. The following 15 species were listed by one party only: Coot, Herring Gull, Golden-eye, Black Duck, Great Blue Heron, Pied-billed Grebe, Turkey Vulture, Marsh Hawk, Screech Owl, Great Horned Owl, Hermit Thrush, Cowbird, Cedar Waxwing, Rusty Blackbird, and Savannah Sparrow.—A.F. GANIER, Nashville.

CORINTH CHAT:—My home here in Corinth is close to the business part of town and houses are fairly thick in every direction. For some 3 or 4 years a large Barred Owl has frequented the area nearby. Three times this winter the bird has growled and screamed within a few feet of my bedroom window. On rare occasions he lets out a regular 'hoot' but more often sounds like the cry of a child followed by a low growl. One night 2 years ago I was awakened and got to the window in time to see the owl fly away. On another night a neighbor flushed him from thick shrubs at his porch where the owl had doubtless gone in search of small birds.——On a day in November more than 300 gulls were on the Tennessee River at Pickwick and large numbers of them have been there all the winter. Counting fish that evidently were killed at the locks and those injured by fishermen and thrown back because of their undersize, the gulls find abundant food on the river.——Redbirds, Robins, and Brown Thrashers started their spring chorus in late February. Bluebirds seem more common than usual along the roadsides in the country. They have been looking for nesting places for at least a month past. I have been on a sharp lookout all the winter for Horned Larks here, but without success.—BENJ. R. WARRINER, Corinth.

KNOXVILLE AREA:—Notes from Knoxville will be very short this time because the writer has not been out as often as usual and reports from others are short or lacking. The day before Christmas an emaciated King Rail was found at Fountain City but it failed to rally to artificial feeding and soon died. The specimen was mounted by Dr. Earl O. Henry. Mr. Ijams and Mr. Johnson have almost run a bird hospital this past fall and winter. Patients and the time of entering were: Blue Goose in late October, soon to be followed by a Black Duck. On Dec. 21 a wounded Great Blue Heron was brought to Mr. Ijams at the News-Sentinel. A Canada Goose was found in captivity by a Knox County game warden. The bird was confiscated on Jan. 20 and later brought to Mr. Ijams who in turn asked Mr. Johnson to band and release it. ——The warm weather of Jan. 24-26 was a welcome period because the birds around the house began to sing, but not in full song. On those days we noted songs from the Bluebird, Robin, Mockingbird, White-throated Sparrow, and Song Sparrow. Apparently the Carolina Wren made no effort to sing at that time.——Migration has been very slow, due, perhaps, to the consistently cool and cold weather. Reports to date show the following arrivals. Vesper Sparrow on Mar. 2, 7, and 8. A small flock of Grackles on Mar. 17 and three Red-wings on the same date.——Once we considered a comparison of species and individuals to see what effect the winter of 1939-40 has had on the present population. A review of our notes shows that we have insufficient material on any one locality to hazard an opinion. However, generally speaking, we have found fewer individuals and have had to hunt over the territory more thoroughly than usual to find the average number of species.——The Robin roost in the Kudzu vine and honeysuckle on the adjoining lot began with about 50 or 60 birds in November but has now (Mar. 20) dwindled to a dozen. No large migrating Robin flocks have yet been reported.——W. M. WALKER, Knoxville.

ROBIN PERSERVERANCE:—Last Spring I started banding birds under Dr. C. W. Quaintance's permit. In our talks Quaintance had told me that if I could ever trap a Robin I was getting pretty good. About two days after he told me this I became very elated when I found a beautiful male Robin in my trap. Upon examining the bird, however, my elation changed to fear when I discovered that the lower half of the mandible was split all the way through the horn at the front and into the flesh at the back. I was afraid at first that this had happened in the trap, but, there was no blood on the wound or on the trap, so I decided that it was very old and that the bird had used the trap as an easy means of obtaining food. I banded him and released him. A few days after this I discovered that this same bird and his mate were building a nest on a downspout of our gutter. They had almost finished their nest when a hard wind came and blew the nest down, but seemingly dauntless, they started to work again and completed their nest and raised 3 young birds. I watched the deformed bird quite a lot through binoculars, and through them, I could see his tongue running through the split place when he was pulling worms out of the ground. This condition handicapped him some, but it didn't stop him by any means. He performed the usual duties at the nest, and after the brood had been reared he stayed around our house until the Fall migration, but he never took another chance on getting food from a trap. This deformed Robin has caused quite a bit of contemplation on my part. Since observing this bird, I have often wondered why more humans can't transcend their troubles as this Robin had done.—ALBERT E. HYDER, Johnson City.

CARRIED OVER are several interesting Round Table notes and acknowledgements of gifts to the recent Anniversary issue. We are grateful to Dr. Bralliar, Dean of Madison College, and gardening authority, for his interesting article, contributed at our special request. Some seasonal banding notes were unavoidably eliminated; also a plea for 'copy' not later than June 1st (please!). Due to the expense of the important notice appended to this issue, we had to trim from 24 down to 20 pages.

A list of new members will be published in the June issue. The Secretary will prepare this on May 31. Local chapters please note.

# THE MIGRANT

A QUARTERLY JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE STUDY OF TENNESSEE BIRDS
PUBLISHED BY THE TENNESSEE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
Supported by membership dues of $1 per year. Please remit to
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*"The simple truth about birds is interesting enough,
it is not necessary to go beyond it."*

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## JUNE CENSUS LISTS

The cross-section of our winter bird life which is presented in a comparative tabulation each year should have a summer counterpart. Such a project could eventually develop the widespread field work that is evidenced in the censuses listed in this issue. At one time we printed the results of the various spring field days. We still think there should be field days at more locations and that the results be discussed in 'The Season'. But we do not think that our field days should necessarily be the intensive effort that most of our winter holiday censuses are. Rather they should be the days of an open house in the out-of-doors, when we can invite all who are similarly interested to come join us and when we can make an effort to aid them in knowing and appreciating more about birds and their surroundings. Too, they are days when we can get to know each other better and look forward to visits from fellow members from far and near.

The groups of T. O. S. members who have spent a week each summer in recent years in making a census of some representative areas of our own state, are doing good work which is being well summarized and is recorded in the pages of our journal. But Tennessee is a large state and we need to know more about our summer bird life. After the spring migration rush we all tend to desert the field. The appeal of the fresh and new has then worn off. Even the field work we do most often fails to find its way to the pages of *The Migrant*. It it takes a project to enlist a systematic effort and to have it presented for the record, then let's have it, effective now as you read this.

In 1938 we received splendid response to our plan of publishing lists of the most common summer birds, based on members' estimates for respective localities. This time we desire current field work. The plan of the Christmas Census will be used and the list should be for any one day between June 1 and July 6, inclusive. Please send only one list from a given locality. If several are available, send the most representative. Better still, make a trip to some other area that we should know about and send us the results. Certain conflicts—schools' end, vacation trips, and the like—are inevitable, but we believe the period set the best for the purpose. The success of the project depends on you and is thus assured.

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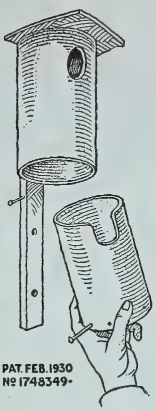

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## IMPORTANT T. O. S. NOTICES

As an accommodation to those of our regular members who have overlooked 1941 dues, your Secretary-Treasurer asks that this issue be sent to the complete list. He will appreciate your cooperation. We are thankful for his efforts in our behalf and in missing his Clarksville seasonal notes we realize his already heavy sacrifice of time for the T. O. S.

## THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY WILL BE HELD AT NASHVILLE, MAY 4, 1941

This meeting will be very important so we ask that you please reserve this date and make every effort to arrange to be there. Additional details will be sent you later.

## HELP WANTED ON BACK NUMBERS

With the publication of the three-year index in the December, 1940 issue many members arranged to complete their block of the 1938-39-40 volumes so that they could be bound in one cover. Our supply of March, 1938 and March, 1939 issues is almost exhausted. We ask those that don't save their copies to see if these copies can be found and donated to the T. O. S. Send either to Clebsch or Ganier. As previously mentioned by Ganier, who has charge of the 1931-1937 stock, the following issues are also needed: 1931—all issues; 1933—March and Sept.; 1934—March and June; 1935—March. We still advise you to carefully preserve your copies—bind them if possible.

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# THE MIGRANT

A QUARTERLY JOURNAL
DEVOTED TO TENNESSEE BIRDS

Published by
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# THE MIGRANT

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## The Cliff Swallows of Swallow Bluff

By Alfred Clebsch

The Northern Cliff Swallow, *Petrochelidon albifrons albifrons*, appeals to us not only by being clad in quite a becoming contrast of colors, but draws our attention because of its peculiar nesting habits. The breeding range of this bird has its southwesterly limit in the southern part of our State, where the Tennessee River reenters it and then turns for the long northward sweep to the Ohio. There, in the southeast corner of Decatur County, Tennessee, on the left bank of the river, a settlement has existed for many years called Swallow Bluff Landing; good evidence that Swallows have been nesting at these river-bluffs since early times. Brief mention has been made of this colony in an illustrated article by A. F. Ganier and S. A. Weakley that appeared in *The Migrant* for June, 1936, to which the reader is referred for further details of the birds and their nests.

When Mr. Ganier invited me to visit the locality this spring for further studies, I accepted readily, and late in the afternoon of May 17, 1941, we arrived at the scene. The old settlement of Swallow Bluff Landing is small, and the passing of the steamboat days has taken away its prosperity. Now the Gilbertsville Dam project, which is to impound water for a distance of a hundred miles and thus reach up into that section, gives it hopes for a new lease on life. There is an old cotton gin, a tie yard, a store and a few old homes. All overlook from a moderately high bank the stately river, whose waters are usually mudstained, but due to an unusually dry spring, flowed past clear and smoothly at the time of our visit. The Tennessee comes here from due west, having completed a turn at Swallow Bluff Island, a mile and a half away.

Recognizing the bluff shown in *The Migrant* we walked along a ledge, impatiently watching for Cliff Swallows, but to our dismay only a few Rough-winged Swallows were coursing over the river. A Great Blue Heron winged his way towards the setting sun and we hoped for a swamp to explore and maybe a heronry, should the Swallows prove to be gone. But matters looked up when we learned that the birds had only moved their domicile upstream in recent years because they were driven away from the place where we stood by irresponsible people who had punched down many nests with poles in order to use the young for fish bait. Soon lodging was found and arrangements made to reach the new nesting site by boat the next morning. We are grateful to Mr. and Mrs. Newton J. Boggan whose help and hospitality contributed much to the success of our trip.

AUG 1 1 1941

After a night when we were serenaded by Chuck-will's-widows and Nighthawks, a clear and bright day greeted us with the concert of many songsters. We had an excellent breakfast and embarked, equipped with anchor and chain, a six-foot step-ladder, camera, and other ornithological outfit. Mr. Boggan and his brother-in-law operated the outboard motorboat and to the side of this a flat-bottom skiff was tied for our later return. For a quarter of a mile the thin layers of the yellowish-gray limestone bluff forms a gentle arc under which the wash of the water has cut recesses ten or twelve feet in depth. The bluff rises at its highest point to about eighty feet above the water and in it was pointed out to us a large cave that is said to be inhabited by hundreds of bats. With the approach to Swallow Bluff Island the current became swift and we travelled inside the bend in the passage south of the island. This contains about fifty acres of tillable land and is augmented by the Dickey Towhead, a smaller island at the upper end, where about five acres were under cultivation. At low stage of water, only a long and straight gravel flat stretches between the two bodies of land ,and ahead of them sprawls, fan-shaped, a broad expanse of gravel bar; thus the river is forced into narrowed channels on either side.

A few Sandpipers (Semipalmated, Spotted, and Solitary)—also a Semipalmated Plover—were in the waterweeds fringing the bars while in the air were many Cliff Swallows. Crossing over to the bluff side we shot into the swift and deep water, and here, under an overhang of better proportions than any we had seen, we found the nest colony of the Swallows. Its "ceiling" varied in height from ten to fourteen feet above the water. We counted roughly two hundred nests, so we estimated that from 350 to 500 birds were nesting there. In a wild swirl they rose, giving their harsh, yet not unpleasant little calls. After some pictures had been taken it became a problem to secure the boat in the swift running water for an examination of nests. Several attempts to use the anchor failed because the twelve-foot chain would not let it reach bottom. Finally, our boatsmen succeeded in throwing the chain over a sharp projection of rock as the current carried us by and with a jerk the boat came to a stop. Thus secured, it was braced away from the cliff with an oar and with the water pressing against the other side, it could be held still and placed under the nests overhead. The two boats were now lashed together to increase their steadiness, the step-ladder was set up, and Mr. Ganier, by standing on the top rung, could reach the nests. They looked like little mud jugs with their sides welded to the flat stone ceiling and were built close together in irregular rows, often touching and even overlapping so that they shared common partition walls with their next-door neighbors.

Five nests that appeared to be completed were examined. Of these one held a full set of four eggs incubated about five days, one held an egg that was fresh, and another had three slightly incubated eggs; the other two were still empty. In the nests with three eggs Mr. Ganier found the two halves of a small mussel shell still held together by their hinge and they must have been thus when they were brought to the nest; the eggs lay in one of the halves. Weighing together .55 ounce and the weight of the bird being only, say, .75 ounce, it was a mystery how they came to be in the nest, for such a heavy, bulky load would seem difficult for even so good a flyer as is this Swallow. The closed shell measured 1.5x1.3 inches. The other nests contained the usual amount of somewhat coarse bedding. Twenty-five or more of the nests were entirely complete and it was in these that the birds were already incubating eggs. These were last year's nests, for in their protected location they were not exposed to the rain, and the river had not risen to such a stage since last summer as to reach them. The river gauge at Johnsonville at the time of our visit was abnormally low for May, registering only 3.5 feet above low water. The great majority of the nests was still under construction and while we were busy with our investigations we noticed that the birds would all be away for a while and then come swarming in to go to their nests and with much clamor place their pellets regardless of our presence.

It was not long until this behaviour was more fully understood. Our observations here being completed our friends took us back to the other channel and left us at the south shore of the towhead. When we first passed there, the mud-gathering of the Swallows had presented such a curious spectacle that we were anxious to see more of it. Under this, the southern and higher bank of Dickey Towhead, backwash and eddy have formed a sediment of mud at the end of a little lagoon in the gravel bar. The towhead here is still crowned by a small grove of trees that hid for us the Swallows' travel to the nests, but there was much coming and going. At intervals with varying degree of regularity: While we watch from the bank a few Swallows are circling and cruising high. As others join them they drop lower; the more that come, the lower and wilder the circling. Maybe fifty, maybe a hundred are skimming close above the ground. Every moment we think they will alight but still they circle. Then, for an instant, just one bird drops and stands in the soft mud, wings held high. More drop down and presently there is a tangled clump of them. Only one small spot seems to have the mud in just the right condition, although we found some peckings under a sycamore bush that was struggling to hold out against the stream at the edge of the bar enclosing the mud bank. All the birds, as they scoop up the mud in their bills until a fat pellet fills their throats, hold their wings high, resembling the flock of butterflies that is feeding on a spot of mud not far away. The Swallows' feet are short and the sticky mud would doubtless soil their wings were they dragged through it. No bird is long on the ground; as some leave others still come. But the cluster thins out and then, of a sudden, there isn't a Swallow in sight. No doubt this times in with their periodic appearance at the nests. Both sexes take part in the mud-gathering, but if there is any preponderance of either sex, it is in favor of the males.

It is not yet certain what the Gilbertsville (Kentucky) Dam will do to the site now used by the Cliff Swallows. In all probability it will be set under water. This bluff, so fortunately situated for the Swallows, extends for less than a thousand feet. There are no bluffs facing the main body of the island, but father downstream we noticed, on our leisurely way back to the Landing, two groups of nests placed much higher on the face of the rising cliff than the old site at the Landing and the present one across from the head of the island, both of which are close to low stage of the river. These high groups of nests consisted of 25 to 35 each and were sufficiently sheltered to have been structures of a former year when an early summer rise may have driven the birds from their favorite spots to seek a higher site. There were no Cliff Swallows around them; however, at the second group, near the middle of the limestone arc, three pairs of Rough-winged Swallows were playing. One of them for a moment clung to the opening of one of the "mud-gourds", but it would be a risky guess to say that the Roughwings had become squatters in the homes built by the Cliff Swallows.

The place we visited holds other attractions for the bird student. Spotted Sandpipers may nest on the island, for we saw them there as well as up and down the river, and two of them in particular seemed to be paired. We saw a Red-shouldered Hawk go after a dead fish floating in the river and heard his calls later in the day. In a cypress swamp, a little inland from the bend above Swallow Bluff Island, we found a pair of Yellow-crowned Night Herons and, further on, a single one. They were without question nesting there. Off and on during the day an Osprey delighted our eye and just before coming ashore we saw his mate join him and the two went through some tumbling in the air, not far above the river's surface.

Speaking more generally, this section of our State has, in regard to its bird life, been explored but little and promises to reward the student who can find time to search its recesses. The landscape is charming and sufficient variety occurs in the terrain; furthermore, with the completion of the Gilbertsville Dam, changes affecting bird life will be wrought. The enormous expanse of inland water that is to be created, will attract species now strange to these parts. Unfortunately some of the present habitats, including some of the old cypress swamps, will be wiped out of existence, but new ones will arise along the shores, where island and marsh will be formed.
CLARKSVILLE, May, 1941.

# Interesting Days on Reelfoot Lake

BY CHARLES F. PICKERING

Reelfoot Lake is always an interesting place to go to observe bird life and especially so during early summer migration. Knowing this to be true, Buddy Collier, Lamar Armstrong, and myself spent May 23 through May 27, 1941, at our club house on Blue Basin.

The afternoon of our first day was spent in boats on the basin to see what one could observe on the water, in the air, and at its edge where there is always saw-grass. Chief occupants of the air were Least Terns that reminded me of large white moths when they seem to stop motionless in the air and dropping suddenly head down for the small fish they feed on—and they rarely miss their target. Many Double-crested Cormorants were flying or perched on the dead snags. Very few Wood Ducks were seen. No Sora or Virginia Rails were seen, no Blue-winged Teal, no Osprey, Black-crowned Night Heron, or Gull. We did see the Bald Eagle perched high on a snag in the distance and knowing where he made his home, decided to visit him the next day.

On the 24th we crossed the basin and leaving our boats at the Bluewing Club we started north on the old road in the direction of Walnut Log. It is just off this road, near Mud Basin, two miles south of Walnut Log, where the Eagle's nest has been in a tall cypress for a period of forty years, I am told on excellent authority.

On our start up this road we had, we believed, all necessary paraphernalia which included climbing irons, rope, both still and motion cameras, flash bulbs, snake dope, food, and another item which proved later to be quite valuable—a Cocker Spaniel. My dog would flush birds in the dense cane and thickets which we would not have seen otherwise.

Soon in our travel we heard the cry of a Red-shouldered Hawk and in a few minutes spotted his nest which contained three young. Buddy Collier climbed up, flushing them out and away. However, one of the young stopped on a limb in another tree close by. This tree was climbed, the hawk captured, carried in our arms the rest of the day, brought home, raised to maturity, and released recently in one of our favorite swamps near Clarksville.

Leaving the hawks and moving on we saw many of the common birds we felt we should find,—the Redstart being the most common in this thick shade area. Most of our friends were in full song and as we neared the big nest we heard the song of the Swainson's Warbler and I can assure you we felt that indeed we had found something. Stopping dead in our tracks the bird was quite close but not seen until I released my dog and he soon had two Swainson's on the move which were easily observed. From three to four were seen,—certainly two at the same time a little later on the ground. The magnificent Eagle was forgotten in our search for the nest of this little plain olive-brown warbler.

We three would spread out, move in a given direction through the very dense cane, meet in the distance, and start the same maneuver again. We hunted for several hours and our results were one uncompleted nest, torn shirts, and a determination to be on the grounds the next day and hunt some more.

We were there the next day and after hunting for about two hours, Buddy and Lamar found the completed nest. Its location was in such a very dense growth that the two boys were afraid to leave together for fear they couldn't find it again in their search for me—I had gone off in another direction. So Lamar stayed on location; Buddy tracked me down and soon we three were together again.

It was a typical Swainson's nest in dense cane—about three feet off the ground, but contained no eggs. The absence of eggs was a big disappointment, but we had found the nest. Clearing out just enough cane and briars, I set up my camera and made a number of exposures in black and white and in Kodachrome by means of flash bulbs. Pictures certainly could not have been made in any other way. I got good pictures in black and white and an excellent one in Kodachrome. As the day was drawing to a close and our time more or less limited, we decided to move on and soon realized we didn't quite know where we were, for in our eagerness we hadn't paid much attention to direction and had forgotten completely the Eagle. I climbed to the top of a sweet gum to check up and within forty feet was the big cypress with two immature Eagles perched out on the limbs. Foliage was so thick that the two boys had to climb the tree one at a time to get the view. After locating this tree and seeing the Eagles we were soon on our return to the boats. We again heard and saw the warblers.

We spent May 26 in our boats on Blue Basin in search of the nests of the Least Bittern, Florida Gallinule, and Coot, along the grass. Several unfinished nests of the Gallinule were found and one complete nest containing five eggs of the Least Bittern, but no Rails were seen.

An interesting fact to me was that on May 12 to 15 of last year (1940) Song Sparrows were everywhere along the grass. Not a single one was seen or heard this trip. On these dates of last year Sora Rails were thick, a few Virginia Rails present. Sora and Virginia Rails had been so close to my boat that I had to remove my telescopic lens and use a one inch lens to photograph them. Also in 1940 several Ospreys were seen, Least Sandpipers, many Blue-winged Teals, a few American Bitterns, many Coots, Bank, Barn, Tree, and Rough-winged Swallows, Black-poll and Sycamore Warblers, several species of Gulls that I couldn't check and great flocks of Black Terns. Ten days later in May of this year, all of this was missing.

The morning of our last day was spent in "Crane Town" with Mr. Lem DeBerry as our guide. He knew the place quite well having visited it year after year. We checked by sight from two to three hundred nests and about five hundred birds consisting of American Egrets, Great Blue Herons, and Black-crowned Night Herons. Mr. DeBerry said he was convinced that we saw fewer nests and birds than he had ever seen and accounted for the fewer numbers by the fact that shooters had been to the area and killed out many of its occupants. This being the case, he said and we knew, that if this is kept up there will be no more "Crane Town" in the very near future. Let us hope that something can be done if this report is true.

If any reader of this article has never visited Reelfoot Lake—take a few days off and go for a visit you will never forget.

CLARKSVILLE, June, 1941.

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HERON BANDING:—Memphis banders were able to visit a heronry below Greenville, Miss., on May 25 and June 8 and the heronry at Moon Lake on June 1. The latter contained chiefly Little Blue Herons and some Snowy Egrets. A few American Egrets were previously seen feeding at the lake's edge and one or two Anhingas and Black-crowned Night Herons soared over while we worked, but no nests were noted. At the other heronry the smaller birds were uncommon and the American Egret, the most common, about 50% reduced in numbers. This was probably due to a fire in 1937 which damaged the buttonbushes and other large shrubs. Each time we practically completed our banding by 11 A.M. The number of nestlings banded: Am. Egret, 1027; Little Blue Heron, 496; Anhinga, 144; Snowy Egret, 102; total, 1769.—A few Swifts were trapped June 6, 1941, at Palmer Hall, Southwestern. Five were new, eight were returns from 1940 (including a 1938 bird). We were not able to return later. There were no indications of nesting.—BEN COFFEY.

# Symposium on Swainson's Warbler

## THE SONG OF THE SWAINSON'S WARBLER

By Alfred Clebsch

The beautiful, yet simple phrase that is the song of our Swainson's Warbler (*Limnothlypis swainsoni*), would scarcely be attributed to this bird as performer, if the listener had to name it from the descriptions given in books commonly consulted by bird-students. As it is heard in Mark's Slough near Clarksville, at Reelfoot Lake, and I may assume, in other parts of Tennessee, the deliverance is at odds with the printed statements. Therefore, I feel that a report of the song we hear may aid in the discovery of this Warbler elsewhere in our State.

The song is a measure of four beats and resembles in its composition very much the well-known "sweet - sweet - sweeter than - sweet" of the Yellow Warbler, but is pronounced with full emphasis on each beat and without haste. As to quality, the Swainson's voice ranks, in my estimation, highest among the Warblers. It has the Louisiana Water-thrush's rich tone color as heard in the middle of that bird's wild stanza, but the Swainson's keeps this round and full quality throughout his rendition. In loudness only the Oven-bird among warblers may surpass it (making an exception of the Chat, a much larger bird), yet one must keep in mind that in the swamp habitat of our Warbler, sounds are deadened, whereas they ring out in the hilly home of the Oven-bird. Surely, the Swainson's Warbler's voice, rich and strong, carries well, and it is not at all hard to tell the direction whence it comes; nevertheless, the bird may become elusive when approached and so create the impression that his voice belies his whereabouts.

During courtship and near the nest the complete song is whistled, but when this Warbler is ranging for food, only snatches of it may be heard; again even these are easily recognized once the tone quality is learned. An elevation of about twenty feet is high for the Swainson's; still we may hear his performance, oft repeated, from such a perch on a lower limb of the swamp trees, Usually, however, he stays within six feet of the ground and feeds either on the ground or in shallow water. Thus engaged, or busy on the job of building the nest, the male occasionally bursts into song. The alarm call of this species is also quite distinctive. Its "chip", better translated as "tseep," is longer than expressions of this type used by other Warblers, and has the quality of a hiss.

So there is, after all, nothing difficult or puzzling in the utterances of the Swainson's Warbler. His voice may be the first to greet you on entering a thicket near a deep-shaded swamp; and if the bird has been heard, there is a fair chance to get a view, if instead of following and chasing, you let him tell you of his movements and give him time to show himself.

Clarksville, June, 1941.

## SNAKE IN A SWAINSON'S WARBLER NEST

BY CLARENCE E. COLLIER, JR.

A pair of Swainson's Warblers were back at Mark's Slough, near Clarksville, on April 20 of this year, and on June 1 Dr. Chas. F. Pickering and I went there to look for the nest and to make pictures of it. We followed our custom of going in near the spring that feeds the swamp. Large trees darken the place and there is also enough undergrowth to fill the dwelling needs of these warblers. Our eyes still used to the brightness outside, we made out a bulky nest in a clump of stout canes. It was fastened to several stalks, below their leafy tops, and was a little over five feet from the ground. I was about to hold a mirror to let us see the inside, when a snake that lay coiled there, raised his head showing much white in a wide-open mouth. But instead of a cotton-mouth, as I feared at first,—they are common in the swamp and disposed to show their cotton-white gorge,—this was a milk snake (*Lampropeltis triangulum*), only about 14 inches long. The white thing in his gaping jaws was a pure white egg of the Swainson's Warbler! The markings of this snake bear some likeness to that of the copperhead, so that I did not know I was dealing with a harmless kind when I tried to forestall the loss of the egg. As the snake drew his head back into the nest a quick wave of my arm made him turn loose the egg just before he straightened out and slithered to the ground. The egg was fresh and undamaged; we wiped the snake's spittle from it and left it in the nest. The snake showed no outward sign of having gulped any other eggs, but perhaps he had done so earlier and had already digested them.

Dr. Pickering got set to photograph the bird at the nest, but although she came close two times during the next hour and a half, she seemed too alarmed to settle down. Finally we had to let it go with an exposure to show the placement of the nest and the cane leaves used to the exclusion of all other as material on the outside. We left with hopes that matters would yet go well, but in vain. When we went back on June 8, the nest had been forsaken and still held only the one egg we had retrieved from the milk snake. The birds may have started all over, but we were unable to learn where they had rebuilt. This nest was located not far from the one found May 19, last year, and described in the December, 1940 *Migrant*. CLARKSVILLE, June, 1941.

## NOTES ON THE SWAINSON'S WARBLER AT MEMPHIS

BY ROBERT TUCKER

On May 9, 1941, I found a Swainson's Warbler in Overton Park, located inside the city of Memphis, and it remained there throughout the months of May and June. It sang continuously and it is not known whether or not it nested, as all attempts to find the nest there failed. Good nesting conditions are available for the bird in the park as there is an excellent canebrake and also tangles and thickets.

On May 17, 1941, while at Wolf River just north of Memphis I heard and saw another of these Warblers. It was heard on every visit to the same place afterwards. On June 9 I decided to look for the nest, and following in the direction of the song, found a large canebrake, which was unknown to me. De Smith and I searched for about an hour and finally found an old nest in a small patch of cane. The nest was similar to the one found at Clarksville by Mr. Ganier (*Migrant*, 1940: 111-112). It was located about 3½ feet above the ground in the top of a clump of small cane. About twenty feet away in an identical position another nest was found. This nest was very old and was all but falling out of the cane. The canebrake was on low swampy ground and at one point touched on Wolf River.

On June 25, in a swampy area between North Horn Lake and Mud Lake, on the Tenn.-Miss. state line, just south of Memphis, no less than five Swainson's Warblers were heard singing. The different birds were on an average of about a half-mile apart. I made no attempt to find any nests.

I have as yet to find a Swainson's Warbler without hearing it sing first. Its song is a unique feature. It begins with three Water-thrush like notes going down the scale slightly, then comes a high note followed by two lower notes. It is a loud and beautiful song and carries a long distance. On timing the intervals between songs I found the time to range from 10 to 30 seconds, when the bird was unaware of my presence. When alarmed it sang every 5 seconds. The average time though was 13 seconds. MEMPHIS, June, 1941.

## SWAINSON'S WARBLER NEAR JOHNSON CITY

BY ALBERT E. HYDER

On June 8, 1941, a group of members of the Johnson City Chapter of the T.O.S. and a group of the Teachers' College Field Zoology class visited Rock Creek, Beauty Spot on the Unaka Mountain, and the Limestone Cove section, for the purpose of studying the bird life there. This group was composed of the following: Dr. James T. Tanner, Nancy Sheedy, Ann King, Elizabeth Dyer, Effie Gee, Bill Pearson and the writer. Tanner drove one car and took one group while Bill Pearson took the other. Tanner's party arrived at Rock Creek ahead of Pearson's and while waiting, Tanner positively identified a flock of Red Crossbills. I was with Pearson and by the time we got to Rock Creek the Crossbills were gone.

Shortly after my arrival, Tanner and I were sitting by the side of the road when we noticed a bird singing by a small creek across the road. We commented on the song and agreed that it sounded like a Louisiana Water-thrush. It sang again and I became suspicious and started stalking it. I got a fairly good look at its back and definitely decided from its song and actions that it was not a Water-thrush. It sang several times and then I came out of the undergrowth and asked Tanner what a Swainson's Warbler looked like and sounded like. He immediately remarked that he believed this bird to be a Swainson's, so we started to try and verify our beliefs. The bird would sing for a while, then quit, and, after being perfectly silent for a time, start singing in another place, usually at quite a distance. We stalked the bird for quite a while, without obtaining another view, and finally decided to go on to Beauty Spot and stop again at Rock Creek as we returned in the afternoon.

We followed this plan and when we returned, we found our bird in the same locality. This time we organized the group and started a systematic search for our bird. We could get close, but our quarry would always manage to keep just a few bushes between us and him. Finally he flew out in the open and perched just a few feet in front of Dr. Tanner's eyes and sat there for several minutes. I was just back and to the left of Tanner and had some bushes between the bird and me, consequently, I only saw him as he flew. Dr. Tanner was positive that the bird was a Swainson's Warbler.

Later on in the afternoon as I returned home with Pearson's group, we heard another Swainson's Warbler in the Limestone Cove section. A Louisiana Water-thrush was singing just down the creek from this one and we had an excellent chance to compare the songs of the two birds.—JOHNSON CITY, June, 1941.

## SWAINSON'S WARBLER IN THE MEMPHIS AREA

BY BEN COFFEY

Due to the unusual attention with which the Swainson's Warbler suddenly finds itself regarded, we exercise an editor's prerogative in having the last word on this species. In reviewing the record for this area we go back to the 'first word'—in *The Migrant* (June, 1931: 2) when we described the song as a "pretty liquid 'wee-er, wee-er chee-wee-er'." An infrequent variation of the last part as written in our note book was "chee-chee-wee-er". At that time we felt that the song might be easily confused with a variation given by the Hooded Warbler. But in the last two seasons since this species has become not uncommon, we believe that an inexperienced observer might pass it by more readily as a Louisiana Water-thrush. The latter's song is longer and has that wild beauty that sets it apart and near the top.

The first record for this area and for Tennessee was by S. N. Rhoads* who visited the state on a zoological field trip and spent part of his time near Raleigh. In the period from May 8 to May 14, 1895, he saw and heard several and collected two in the Wolf River bottoms eight miles northeast of Memphis. Ganier lists this data and his own record of September 17, 1914, a half-mile west of the Tennessee River near Johnsonville (*The Migrant*, 1934: 11-12); also our early records. This summary was a result of the recording (1934:1) of a nest with three eggs of this species taken May 21, 1902, one mile south of Athens by Richard Gettys.

There is a small cane patch in the southwest corner of the Overton Park woods and it was there that I heard and saw my first Swainson's Warbler on April 24, 1929. There was some question of a second singer on the 24th and 25th, but on the 26th a second bird was found 90 yards from the first. In 1930 I found an individual there on April 20 and 27. A few evenings later I listened to it sing almost continuously for over twenty minutes. Familiarity with the song was to stand me in good stead nine years later but at the time it produced but two other records. Many a Hooded Warbler was chased down on the first part of a trip down the lower Y. & M. V. R.R. right-of-way on July 3, 1930, but subsequently a Swainson's was found in the thickets near a spring. On April 19, 1931, we found one in the Wolf River bottoms northeast of the Houston Levee Road (1931:6).

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* Rhoads, S. N. 1895. Contributions to the Zoology of Tennessee. No. 2 Birds. Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila. 463-501.

On June 22, 1939, while driving thru the Tombigbee bottoms south of Columbus, Miss., I heard this species on one of my 'listening' stops. It was recognized at once and verified by finding the singer a few feet from the road. I returned the next morning and found it and three others in a stretch of 2.5 miles. On June 24 I found one ten miles west of Columbus.

Further proof that this species was becoming more common (1940:48) arose the following year when one was reported north of Greenwood, Miss. on May 26, 1940, while in the Memphis area on April 28 three were found in the Loosahatchie bottoms at the bridge near Arlington and one at the Wolf River and Germantown Road. On a return visit to Arlington with Ganier, May 6, the birds were not found. This year the first one of the season was the Wolf-Germantown bird on April 19 while Tucker and I took time out on June 29 to find two at the Arlington site. On April 20 one was found near Five Points, Wolf River and the Macon Road. On April 27 one was found at Hack's Cross Road and Nonconnah Creek, south of Germantown, and one near Michigan City, Miss., Hwy. 5 and Wolf River. One was recorded at Lakeview on the Field Day (Horn Lake Creek, Tenn., May 11). Burdick reports one regularly at Kirby Road and Nonconnah Creek while Tucker describes above one north of town and five in the Mud Lake Area. Several observers have reported one in Overton Park which Tucker found for the census; the other recorded then was near the transmission tower in Ensley bottoms. On our Gallaway-Stanton census, a cane patch in a woods just off Hwy. 70 yielded two adults and an immature out of the nest, plus a fourth bird.

Among the above 1941 records there are at least ten localities within Shelby County with one or more singers at each. The unusual increase in records can be attributed to one of three reasons: the species is becoming more common; observers becoming more familiar with song and habitat; hence more suitable localities visited. We are inclined to the first belief. Eugene Wallace reports that the species was common in migration at Baton Rouge and Tallulah, La. The writer has been famiilar with the song since 1929-30 and readily recognized it in 1939. The cane patch at Overton Park is visited on every trip there, frequently in April and May. The Five Points, Lakeview, and Germantown localities have been visited often in the past as have many similar situations.—MEMPHIS, June, 1941.

## ADDENDA

In addition to the Athens, Johnsonville, and Memphis Area records referred to, other published records for Tennessee are as follows:

Whittemore, Wendell L. 1937. Summer Birds of Reelfoot Lake. Jour. Tenn. Acad. Sci. Vol. XII, p. 125. Recorded one July 14, 1936, upper end of Bayou du Chien. Also a pair on May 2, 1936, near the Biological Station.

Ganier, A. F. 1940. Nesting of the Swainson's Warbler in Middle Tennessee. The Migrant, Vol. XI pp. 111-112. Two birds near Clarksville by Clebsch, April 28 to June 23, 1940. With nesting data and picture by Ganier.

Calhoun, John B. 1941. Notes on the Summer Birds of Hardeman and McNairy Counties. Jour. Tenn. Acad. Sci. Vol. XVI, p. 306. Six birds recorded (first three collected) at widely scattered localities along the Hatchie River and Muddy Creek, in Hardeman County, July 29 to August 29, 1939.

(Benj. R. Warriner mentions two near Corinth, Miss.—*The Migrant*, 1940: 37.)

(See also Chas. F. Pickering's article, this issue—p. 25).

# June Census

BY OUR MEMBERS

Patterned after our mid-winter census, this was the first of its kind during the summer season. While it did not prove as popular as the other event, now of twelve years standing, we believe it can be as valuable and as necessary. We will not repeat here our reasons as given in the March issue nor say at this time whether the project will be advocated next year. But the list itself should prove interesting in many points, even tho admittedly not representative of the state as a whole or for the localities worked. Such omissions as hawks, owls, and even vultures on several lists, and low numbers on other species, particularly those not roadside species, will be noted by experienced students of distribution. Yet the data presented gives a fair relative cross-section of our bird-life in southern West Tennessee, with two lists from Middle Tennessee, and one from East Tennessee. We want to thank those cooperating. We believe such a census will be of value in your area.

The total number of species listed for the state was 98 which includes 4 species not recorded in any individual area but rather seen enroute or on side trips. A list from the Gt. Smokies might have added about 20 other species. The largest single list was 72 from Memphis, the same as recorded last Christmas. More properly the list should be 71 summer residents, eliminating the Cormorant which nests in the state only at Reelfoot.

| | Memphis May 30 | Chickasaw Bluffs June 15 | Gallaway-Stanton June 29 | Chickasaw Forest June 22 | Savannah July 4 | Craggie Hope July 6 | Clarksville June 18 | Greeneville June 7 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Number of Species | 72 | 55 | 58 | 58 | 51 | 56 | 48 | 50 |
| Number of Individuals | 1842 | 489 | 802 | 508 | 821 | 327 | 252 | 419 |
| Number of Observers | 3 | 5 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 9 | 2 | 1 |
| Double-crested Cormorant | 1 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Great Blue Heron | .... | 1 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| American Egret | .... | *2 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Green Heron | 2 | *2 | 1 | 4 | 2 | .... | 3 | .... |
| Yellow-crowned Night Heron | .... | .... | *1 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Wood Duck | .... | .... | *1 | .... | .... | .... | 1 | .... |
| Turkey Vulture | .... | 6 | 35 | 10 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 10 |
| Black Vulture | 1 | *2 | 13 | 1 | .... | 3 | .... | 7 |
| Mississippi Kite | 4 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Cooper's Hawk | .... | 1 | .... | .... | .... | 2 | .... | .... |
| Red-tailed Hawk | .... | 2 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Red-shouldered Hawk | .... | .... | 1 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Broad-winged Hawk | .... | .... | .... | 1 | .... | .... | 3 | .... |
| Osprey | ... | .... | .... | 1 | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Sparrow Hawk | 2 | *2 | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1 | .... |
| Bob-white | 32 | 9 | 12 | 19 | 14 | 3 | 3 | 6 |
| King Rail | .... | .... | .... | * | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Killdeer | 7 | 2 | 8 | 1 | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Woodcock | .... | .... | *1 | .... | .... | .... | 1 | .... |
| Least Tern | 10 | 1 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Mourning Dove | 27 | 18 | 14 | 11 | 57 | 3 | 4 | 10 |
| Yellow-billed Cuckoo | 14 | 8 | 4 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 5 | 3 |
| Barn Owl | .... | *1 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Chuck-will's-widow | 2 | .... | .... | 3 | .... | .... | .... | 1 |
| Nighthawk | 9 | .... | 1 | 1 | 6 | .... | .... | 2 |
| Chimney Swift | 35 | 5 | 24 | 7 | 36 | 8 | 13 | 9 |
| Ruby-throated Hummingbird | 3 | 4 | .... | 1 | .... | 3 | 1 | 2 |
| Belted Kingfisher | 1 | *1 | .... | 3 | .... | .... | 4 | .... |
| Flicker | 20 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 4 |
| Pileated Woodpecker | .... | 1 | .... | 2 | .... | 2 | 1 | .... |

| (Cont.) | Memphis May 30 | Chickasaw Bluffs June 15 | Gallaway-Stanton June 29 | Chickasaw Forest June 22 | Savannah July 4 | Craggie Hope July 6 | Clarksville June 18 | Greeneville June 7 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Red-bellied Woodpecker | 9 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 1 | .... |
| Red-headed Woodpecker | 18 | .... | 2 | 2 | .... | .... | 1 | 1 |
| Hairy Woodpecker | 2 | .... | .... | .... | 1 | 1 | .... | .... |
| Downy Woodpecker | 6 | 5 | 3 | 9 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 4 |
| Kingbird | 8 | 2 | 18 | 2 | 2 | .... | .... | .... |
| Crested Flycatcher | 22 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 5 |
| Phoebe | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1 | .... | 2 |
| Acadian Flycatcher | 4 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 22 | .... |
| Wood Pewee | 21 | 13 | 10 | 21 | 19 | 6 | 2 | 4 |
| Prairie Horned Lark | 1 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Rough-winged Swallow | 11 | 23 | 1 | 11 | .... | .... | 4 | 4 |
| Barn Swallow | .... | 1 | 1 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Purple Martin | 17 | 2 | 2 | .... | 8 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Blue Jay | 79 | 20 | 42 | 14 | 17 | 9 | .... | 5 |
| Crow | 23 | 20 | 16 | 10 | 13 | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| Carolina Chickadee | 11 | 11 | 3 | 21 | 15 | 15 | 9 | 6 |
| Tufted Titmouse | 16 | 8 | 6 | 21 | 15 | 8 | 10 | 6 |
| White-breasted Nuthatch | .... | .... | .... | 3 | .... | 2 | .... | .... |
| Bewick's Wren | 4 | .... | 3 | .... | 1 | 3 | .... | 8 |
| Carolina Wren | 31 | 16 | 7 | 9 | 5 | 9 | 2 | 9 |
| Mockingbird | 68 | 10 | 65 | 1 | 14 | 2 | .... | 2 |
| Catbird | 11 | 2 | 17 | 2 | 26 | 2 | 6 | 5 |
| Brown Thrasher | 27 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 4 | .... | 3 |
| Robin | 208 | *6 | 19 | 4 | 35 | 1 | 4 | 6 |
| Wood Thrush | 52 | 10 | 6 | 7 | 46 | 25 | 13 | 8 |
| Bluebird | 2 | 6 | 18 | 18 | 2 | 12 | .... | 8 |
| Blue-gray Gnatcatcher | 2 | *2 | 1 | 11 | 3 | 8 | 8 | 5 |
| Shrike | 11 | 1 | 1 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Starling | 14 | *2 | 2 | .... | 110 | .... | .... | 108 |
| White-eyed Vireo | 13 | 1 | 7 | 11 | 5 | 10 | 5 | 4 |
| Yellow-throated Vireo | 1 | 1 | 3 | 17 | 1 | 3 | 2 | .... |
| Red-eyed Vireo | 44 | 12 | 13 | 25 | 8 | 15 | 3 | 6 |
| Warbling Vireo | 9 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Black and White Warbler | .... | .... | .... | 4 | 1 | 1 | .... | .... |
| Prothonotary Warbler | 8 | 6 | .... | .... | .... | .... | 14 | .... |
| Swainson's Warbler | 2 | .... | 4 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Worm-eating Warbler | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 2 | .... | .... |
| Parula Warbler | 1 | 3 | .... | †2 | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Yellow Warbler | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 6 | 2 |
| Sycamore Warbler | 4 | .... | 1 | .... | .... | 7 | 7 | .... |
| Pine Warbler | .... | .... | .... | 8 | .... | 6 | .... | .... |
| Prairie Warbler | .... | .... | .... | 13 | 1 | 3 | 1 | .... |
| La. Water-thrush | 2 | 1 | *2 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 4 | .... |
| Kentucky Warbler | 15 | 9 | 4 | 8 | .... | 3 | 6 | 2 |
| Md. Yellow-throat | 92 | 28 | 42 | 11 | 24 | 10 | 11 | 10 |
| Yellow-breasted Chat | 41 | 18 | 18 | 11 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 2 |
| Hooded Warbler | 9 | 4 | 1 | 8 | .... | 7 | .... | .... |
| Redstart | 14 | 2 | 6 | .... | .... | 2 | .... | .... |
| English Sparrow | C | 12 | 80 | .... | 86 | 7 | .... | 19 |
| Meadowlark | 159 | 11 | 61 | 1 | 22 | .... | .... | 13 |
| Red-wing | 42 | 2 | 25 | 8 | 6 | .... | .... | 14 |
| Orchard Oriole | 44 | 13 | 28 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| Baltimore Oriole | 7 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Bronzed Grackle | 120 | 8 | 5 | .... | 28 | .... | 6 | 8 |
| Cowbird | 19 | 11 | .... | .... | 12 | .... | 3 | .... |
| Scarlet Tanager | .... | .... | .... | 1 | .... | 3 | .... | .... |
| Summer Tanager | 17 | 17 | 6 | 36 | 19 | 5 | 2 | 3 |
| Cardinal | 83 | 34 | 43 | 9 | 27 | 12 | 15 | 21 |
| Indigo Bunting | 129 | 61 | 53 | 33 | 45 | 15 | 17 | 11 |
| Painted Bunting | 1 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Dickcissel | 104 | *3 | 7 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Goldfinch | 6 | 5 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 7 | .... | .... |
| Towhee | .... | .... | .... | .... | 6 | 12 | 2 | 5 |
| Grasshopper Sparrow | 1 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 4 |
| Bachman's Sparrow | 2 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Chipping Sparrow | .... | .... | 2 | 15 | 30 | 10 | .... | 3 |
| Field Sparrow | 15 | 2 | 22 | 23 | 9 | 13 | .... | 17 |
| Song Sparrow | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 10 |

Not included in totals: * outside area. † previous day.
See also comments under following data.

MEMPHIS:—May 30, 7 to 6:30; sunny; temp. 75 to 88. Southern outskirts, from Airport to transmission tower at Miss. River in Ensley bottoms, incl. short walk to Nonconnah Creek and in Piney Woods; Riverside Park; wharf; N. 2nd. St.; Wolf River bottom NE of Payne Ave. (on foot). 40 miles by auto, 4 on foot. Also Overton Park lawn and Southwestern campus at 6:30 (160 Robins). Compiler alone. Also Robt. Tucker on foot 3:30 to 6:00, same park and campus (no duplicate records) and Joe Mason on foot 5:30 to 6:30 P.M. in vicinity of Mason's dairy, end of Walnut Grove Road. Most of Robins, Chickadees, and Titmice were in Overton Park. 81 Dickcissels in Ensley bottoms (as far as we went). The Cormorant was undoubtedly a straggler. Special localities visited for Prairie Horned Lark—Airport, one heard singing, others undoubtedly present; Barn Swallow—unsuccessful, the annual nesting site since 1936 (*The Migrant*, p. 69) was occupied May 11 but on the census an English Sparrow was perched on the nest when I investigated; Painted Bunting—five regular locations visited but faithful "6-C" was only one recorded.—Ben Coffey.——CHICKASAW BLUFFS NOS. 2 & 1:—June 15; sunny; temp. 71 to 81. Two groups a mile each on foot along Chickasaw Bluff No. 2, working from each end; state hwy. 59 from Richardson's Landing to Randolph to Burlison. Time 10 to 2:30. (Then outside census area to Covington to Henning and towards Fulton, account only bridge.) 5 mi. W of Fulton on road and two miles on foot along Chickasaw Bluff No. 1 with two parties but over same route. 20 miles by auto, not incl. retracing and detouring, and 6 on foot. Dickcissels at Hwy 51. Barn Owl was seen just before dusk, flying low across highway-street intersection in Covington. Chickasaw Bluff No. 2 was the site of a Bank Swallow colony reported by Audubon in 1820 (see *The Migrant*, 1940, p. 60.) Since Burt Monroe of the K.O.S. advised Mr. Ganier this species is now nesting at Henderson, Ky., we planned this trip to search for them. No current signs were observed but slim clues from residents make occasional check-ups advisable. The Barn Swallow was flying among a few Rough-wings at the base of Bluff No. 1.—Ben Coffey, Jr., John Pond, Demett Smith, Robt. Tucker (Memphis) and Albert F. Ganier (Nashville).——GALLAWAY-STANTON:—June 29, 6:20 to 1 and 5 to 6; sunny; temp. 79 to 92. Gallaway, on foot within 1 mi. E. of town, back roads to Hwy. 59, N. to Braden, Hwy. 70 to Mason, stopping at cane brake N. side, just W. of Tipton Co. line (4 Swainson's incl. 1 juvenal), NW to near Covington, SE via Tabernacle and Charleston to Stanton; evening, Hwy. 70, Stanton to Gallaway. 55 miles by auto, 4 on foot; observers together. A female Wood Duck and an immature Yellow-crowned Night Heron seen in burnt-over Hatchie bottoms E. of Shepp, outside census area. Woodcock flushed in Loosahatchie bottoms, E. of Arlington, N. of Hwy. 70.—Ben Coffey, Jr. and Robt. Tucker.——CHICKASAW FOREST:—June 22, 5 to 11 and 4 to 6:30; sunny, temp. 74 to 96. Bethel Church, W. on Hwy. 100, then S. & W. to Lake La Joie, 3 mi. on foot around the lake, E. on Hwy. 100 to Lake Placid, S. along ridge thru oak-hickory-pine to Hwy. 105; (after trip to Henderson, Reagan, Saltillo, and return) back to Lake Placid and cabin area, then W. on Hwy. 100 to limits; only recreational and dam area visited at Lake Placid. About 30 mi. by auto, 3 on foot. Observers together. Absence of the Bachman's Sparrow was noteworthy, considering there were suitable areas. The Scarlet Tanager was recorded by

Alice Smith. Two King Rails were attempting to convoy 6 young (about 10-14 days of age) across Hwy. 100, 1 mi. E. of Henderson when we happened along. One young was banded. Other species not listed but recorded enroute to Saltillo were: Hairy Woodpecker, 1; Purple Martin, 7; Bewick's Wren, 2 records; Starling, 8; Prothonotary Warbler, 1; Bronzed Grackle, 1; also Towhee, 1, near Reagan. In the Forest itself we recorded 2 Parula Warblers in the willows at Lake La Joie the evening previous. Intensive field work from 5:30 to 7:30 on June 21 yielded about the same relative results as were obtained on the census.—Mr. and Mrs. Ben Coffey, Jr., Alice Smith, Robt. Tucker, and Ben Welch (Memphis) and Mrs. C. A. Barefield (Norfolk, Va.). ——SAVANNAH:—July 4, 12:50 to 5:30, ten miles on foot out Hwy. 69, return 1 mile; 6 to 6:20, town and ferry landing, 1 mile on foot. Heavy rains previous night, light rain in A.M., stopping at 12:50, occasional sprinkle and overcast most of afternoon; temp. 77. Since visit on March 26, 1933, first 5 miles well built-up, last section well wooded but practically all pine cut out. Some evidence of past fires. Listing of Red-eyeds and Warblers below normal. Starlings were hunting a roost in town.—Ben Coffey, Jr.,—— CRAGGIE HOPE:—July 6, 8:30 to 4; part cloudy. Including Pine bluffs, valley of Turnbull River and Treanor farm. Cooper's Hawk nest held 3 young.—Catherine Anderson, John B. Calhoun, A. F. Ganier, Arthur McMurray, Mr. and Mrs. G. R. Mayfield, Geo. Mayfield, Jr., Wm. Simpson, and W. R. Spofford (Nashville).——CLARKSVILLE:—June 19, 7:30 to 5:30; clear; temp. 70 to 75; west wind. From canoe only. Cumberland River—1 mi., Red River—1 mi., West Fork Creek—2 mi. A special search was made for nests with the following results: Green Heron, 2 (& 3 nestlings); Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 4; Acadian Flycatcher, 22 (& 12); Wood Thrush, 1; White-eyed Vireo, 1; Prothonotary Warbler, 3 (& 4); Cardinal, 10 (& 6); Indigo Bunting, 2 (& 4). Also 3 young Sparrow Hawks and 1 young Wood Duck were recorded. Nestlings and young not included in list.—Alfred Clebsch, Sr. and Clarence Collier, Jr.——GREENEVILLE:—June 7, 6 to 10:30 and 2:45 to 6; clear; temp. 70 to 75. Reed farm along Roaring Fork Creek, Lick Creek, Bay's Mt.—Willie Ruth Reed.

# THE SEASON

MEMPHIS AREA:—Field work by Burdick, Mason, Tucker, Welch, and others was actively undertaken this season. Our own early morning trips to Overton Park were almost back to normal, at least during most of the migrations, after a lapse during the past two years. After the Field Day on May 11 most of our work was done out of the immediate Memphis territory. A few items of interest on most of these trips will be found in comments accompanying census data elsewhere in this issue.—On March 24 Mrs. Coffey and I visited old Bry's airport and besides the 4 Upland Plovers which we had hoped to see we found a Golden Plover, the only one of the season. We were able to approach very closely in a car, using this method also in attempting to photograph the Uplands on later dates. Burdick visited the field early the next morning and saw the Golden and also a Short-eared Owl.

Mason failed to find the Plover a half-hour later. Six Uplands were there on April 6 and 10 and two on April 25 —A Bachman's Sparrow was seen in Overton Park on April 3; it gave a "whisper song." The first Painted Bunting was heard early April 24 on the back of Coffey Grounds but it never returned. Three more were spotted incidentally the next day and the species continues to be not uncommon. Two were at Lakeview on the Field Day and a third south of the levee. 120 species were listed there. Swallows were almost absent, in contrast to the usual numbers skimming along the levee. A Mourning Warbler and 3 Wilson's Warblers (Burdick), 5 Northern Water-thrushes (B.C.) were seen and heard singing, an Osprey performed over the large 'bar-pit' for the benefit of the crowd, and a Florida Gallinule was found. Only one Sora was kicked-up, in line with a very marked scarcity of rails this spring. A male Hooded Merganser was flushed after a special search, Burdick and I having found a pair here on April 13. (On May 6, 1934, a female with 8 young about 4 weeks old were seen here.—*The Migrant*, 1934: 26). Due to an abnormally low stage in the Mississippi and a deficient rainfall Mud Lake was, for the first time in spring, presenting ideal conditions for shorebirds, being very shallow. On Mar. 30 Burdick, Mason, et al, recorded 20 L. Yellowlegs there; 600 on Apr. 6, and 223 on Apr. 13. A moderate number of ducks were there on Mar. 30 (999, 9 species); a smaller group on Apr. 6 (371, 10 species), including 50 Shovellers. On the 13th a Woodcock was seen. But by the 20th the river finally backed into the lake and kept the water's edge back into the willows. Burdick, Mason, and Welch watched 14 Miss. Kites along the levee there on May 15.——On Apr. 27 a trip was make just below the state line from Olive Branch east and back into La Grange. 2 Cape May Warblers were seen near the former. A wet weather pond on the Curtis farm east of Slayden yielded: Am. Bittern, 3; L. Yellowlegs, 17; Solitary Sandpiper, 5; Blue-winged Teal, 1. At 15 stops Bewick's Wrens were recorded, all near farm houses. A Phoebe was seen at each of two bridges in the Wolf River bottoms near Michigan City, Miss. A nest with 4 eggs was found at the south bridge. It was on a steel I-beam carrying a concrete road-bed. 48 miles from Memphis, the previous nearest was 112 miles—Eastport, Miss., at the Ala. line. Another Phoebe was found Apr. 20 on Shady Grove Road east of town and remained in the vicinity of a bridge a few days. It was in this area that Burdick recorded an Orange-crowned Warbler on Apr. 18, a Whip-poor-will on Apr. 20, and Mason a Worm-eating Warbler on Apr. 13. Burdick found 8 Golden-winged Warblers, April 28, and 2 Blue-headed Vireos on May 10 near his home on Stout Rd. and had a Whip-poor-will present Apr. 22-23-24. On May 20 he recorded 3 Philadelphia Vireos and a late Black-throated Green Warbler at Nonconnah Creek and Kirby Road. Two Golden-wingeds were seen there May 3.——On May 17 we visited the field at Holly Springs, Miss. for Horned Larks and saw and heard 4. At Gum Pond, Tupelo, we saw 7 Black Terns, 14 L. Scaups (3 males) and 2 Blue-winged Teals. On the 18th we heard 2 Towhees singing near Burnsville, Miss.; this is a late date for transients and they might have been nesting.—Robt. Heard, Jr., of Memphis, reported seeing 200 White Pelicans swimming in Horseshoe Lake (Ark.) on June 18. He approached to within 75 feet. This evidently was an unusually early return or perhaps they were wandering non-breeding birds.—BEN COFFEY, Memphis.

MILAN AREA: First impressions based chiefly on casual observations during other work, very little actual field study; largely on Ordnance Plant site E of town and on motor trips to other parts of Gibson county; period March 25-July 20. Best Find: Horned Larks, 8 records, April 12 thru July 12, singing birds as late as June 28, over extensive open areas E of town to county line, both sides highway 104; group of 5, June 28, and 3, July 12; give every evidence of breeding. General Impression: Birds uniformly scarce thru out this section over the period, compared to personal experience at Nashville. Predominant bird voice of this countryside is the song of the Meadowlark. Blue Jay, Bewick's Wren, Red-wing, Kingbird, Orchard Oriole, and Flicker are more common than at home. Very few nests found; Mocker building April 26; Jay building April 12; Bewick's Wren on 5 eggs in a barn, May 30; Robin, 2 young ready to leave a nest, June 25; Dove about 5 feet up in old Cardinal nest in sapling. The two squabs left July 3, undisturbed by long line of workmen passing to time clocks twice daily. Starlings out of nests by May 1; definitely fewer than in middle Tennessee; about one pair per block in town, seldom seen in country.

Migration most disappointing, even in town's fine shade trees and shrubbery. Arrivals: Blue Jay, Apr. 10, flocks; Kingbird Apr. 12; Orchard Oriole, Apr. 16; Catbird, Apr. 18. Only one Baltimore Oriole, May 1; no nests noted in this section, altho looked for while trees were bare. Purple Finch, flock 12, Apr. 11; Yellow Warbler, Apr. 16, 17, 18, only; none breed (?). White-crowned Sparrows in song, last week of April; Solitary Sandpiper frequently noted Apr. 8 thru 27, countryside generally. White-eyed Vireo, Apr. 14 and 15, town shrubbery, no more until June 25 and still scarce and local. Swifts, none seen Apr. 5 on drive to Nashville; return on 7th showed a few over every town. During May Chuck-will's-widow sang much at night but seemed to stop entirely by mid-June. Phoebe noted at a few bridges Apr. 5 and 8, not followed up; Towhee common in suitable cover all about Milan and westward to Trenton, as well as N to Bradford. Prairie Warbler, one singing, bushy hillside 2 miles S of Bradford and same 4 miles S of McLemoresville, Carroll county, May 13. A fine male Barn Swallow May 30 near Milan. Following species surprisingly scarce: Crow, Shrike, hawks, vireos, Red-headed Woodpecker and Chat. Sparrow Hawks noted singly in three localities only; two fine Red-tails at Whitthorne, mid-July; no owls at all. Dickcissels few, only in bottom lands choked with Johnson grass; still in song July 22. Doves and Bob-whites present in considerable numbers throughout. Blackbird and Swift roosts already well underway.—HARRY C. MONK, 406 Avoca St., Nashville.

## NEW CHAPTER OFFICERS

Murfreesboro:—H. O. Todd, Jr., pres.; Claude Shacklett, vice-pres.; Robert Duckworth, sec'y.; George Davis, member T. O. S. board of directors.

Nashville:—Dr. Walter M. Spofford, pres.; Edward Schreiber, vice- pres.; Mrs. B. H. Abernathy, sec.-treas.

Clarksville:—Dr. Chas. F. Pickering, pres.; Alfred Clebsch, sec.-treas.

Meeting dates of our local chapters remain as published in previous issues.

# THE ROUND TABLE

MISSISSIPPI KITE AT NASHVILLE:—While in a golf tournament at Shelby Park, Nashville, I had the opportunity of watching a Mississippi Kite soaring overhead for about three minutes. The bird was at a height of about 200 feet and over the woods near the 17th tee. This was about 11:30 A.M. on June 12, 1941, the second day of a three day tournament. I was unable to keep a special lookout for it and did not see it again. I have seen this species often at Memphis.—AUSTIN BURDICK, JR., R. F. D., Germantown.

BALD EAGLE NOTES:—On Jan. 13, 1941, I took a boat trip on Reelfoot Lake from Samburg to Walnut Log and return. While going through Grassy Bend a few scattered Bald Eagles were noticed on the cypress trees. Upon returning through this area 10 Bald Eagles were counted—3 adults and 7 immatures. There was no mistake in this number for they flew from Grassy Bend to Horse Island in front of the boat. I was very much surprised and pleased to find such a relatively large number on Reelfoot Lake.——While making an evaluation survey of Open Lake on Jan. 28, 5 Bald Eagles were observed perched in the tops of the large cypress trees around the north and west side of the lake. During the survey we traveled by boat, which afforded an excellent opportunity to make a fairly close observation of the birds. There is no way of determining whether or not these are a part of the same birds that I observed on Reelfoot Lake several weeks before. It may also be interesting to note that literally hundreds of ducks were utilizing Open Lake. The greatest per cent of these were Lesser Scaups. Large numbers of Black Ducks, Canvas-backs, Ring-neckeds, and Teals were also observed.——On Dec. 11, 1940, I had the pleasure and privilege of banding an immature Bald Eagle. This eagle was captured near Covington by a group of coon hunters in the Mississippi River bottom. It was understood that these sportsmen surprised the bird while it was feeding on a young pig. It was captured and kept in captivity for several days by an individual who lives approximately 10 miles southeast of Covington. When the bird was banded, it appeared to be in perfectly good condition.—ALBERT J. MARSH, Dept. of Conservation, Nashville.

EDITOR'S NOTE:—These reports of Mr. Marsh are most encouraging. While it would be difficult to say what proportions of these were wintering birds and local residents, we can hope that our American Eagle is making a come-back here in the Mississippi Valley. Members of the T.O.S. would do well to spread the information that complete protection for the Bald Eagle was provided by an Act of Congress, signed by the President, June 16, 1940. This act provides that "persons taking, possessing, or dealing in Bald Eagles" will be subject to a fine of $500, or up to six months' imprisonment, or both.

**PIGEON HAWK AT MEMPHIS:**—Our dairy is located about two miles east of the city limits. On Nov. 13, 1940, I saw a male of this species (*Falco c. columbarius*) perched on a fence post at our place. As I watched he caught an English Sparrow and flew thru an old barn nearby. The next time I saw him was on Nov. 24 when I was standing on a creek bank as he flew down the creek, passing within about 20 feet of me. I particularly noticed the broad tail bands and the blue-gray color of the upperparts. He flew fast and did not sail at all. On Nov. 29 Burdick was on one of his visits here and saw what was evidently the same individual. On Dec. 1 I saw the hawk coming thru the woods. The birds scattered immediately and a moment later he stopped in an elm near me. The distinctive markings were plainly visible. I crept up closer and studied him well before he took flight. Evidently he did not see me as he flew past me and again down the middle of the small creek or ditch nearby. Earlier that morning Mr. and Mrs. Coffey and Robt. Tucker joined Burdick and myself in an unsuccessful search for it.—JOE MASON, JR., Memphis.

SCARCITY OF RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRDS IN JOHNSON CITY:—For three successive summers, my mother and I have fed Hummingbirds by means of medicine vials holding sweetened water. On the open end of these vials we constructed imitation flower petals by using small wire and florist's foil in different colors. We have nineteen of these imitation flowers across the end of our front porch and every day, in past summers, we would have to refill these bottles at least once and on many days we had to fill them three times. We have seen as many as seven of these little mites at these feeders at one time. This season on April 20, one bird was seen feeding from our flower garden and there has not been another one seen there since, and this is being written on the twenty-second of July. We thought that perhaps the sweetened water had become sour and we cleaned the bottles out and filled them with a fresh mixture, all to no avail. There has been exactly one bird at those feeders since we put them up in the spring. I have seen very few Hummingbirds on my field trips this spring and summer, and this scarcity must have been caused by late cold snaps. I have noticed also that Red-eyed Vireos and Yellow Warblers and other small birds have not been as plentiful this year as in former years. I would be interested in hearing from other observers on this situation.—ALBERT E. HYDER, Johnson City.

CERULEAN WARBLERS SUMMERING NEAR MEMPHIS:—On June 25, 1941, while looking for birds with Norman P. Hill and Richard Bower down from Harvard University, I identified the first Cerulean Warblers (*Dendroica cerulea*) seen near Memphis during the summer months. They were in a heavily wooded area in the bottoms between North Horn Lake and Mud Lake. This is on the Tenn.-Miss. State line about 9 miles south of Memphis. The warblers were seen near a creek which runs through the woodland between the two lakes. The birds stayed about half way up in the larger trees. Three males and two females were seen and the males were heard singing often. About three of the birds were on the Tenn. side of the line. No doubt the warblers fly back and forth across the state line in their daily wanderings. There are many large trees such as Sycamore, Oak, and Gum which afforded ample nesting places for the birds. No nests were found although the warblers probably nest here.—ROBERT TUCKER, Memphis.

NESTING OF THE WORM-EATING WARBLER NEAR NASHVILLE:—On June 1, 1941, I found a nest of this warbler containing 5 eggs with incubation 5 days advanced. Although this species occurs as a regular summer resident in the ravines of the Highland Rim about Nashville, its nest is difficult to find,—so much so in fact that the present record was my first. Its location was 12 miles N.W. of Nashville in a wooded ravine which opened into the valley of Marrowbone Creek. The nest was on the ground, about a third of the way up the steep hillside and 100 feet from the nearly dry creek-bed in the ravine below. The hillside was wooded with hardwoods under which was a scattered undergrowth and there was a thin growth of woodland plants on the ground.

The nest was tucked under a small drift of leaves that had lodged above the roots of growing plants and was readily seen at some distance as a round dark pocket under the leaves. There was no arching above of the nesting materials, as in the case of the Oven-bird, but the drift of leaves above it served the same purpose. The nest was a fairly compact affair, composed externally of tree leaves, some skeletonized and many with the stems on, and a few rootlets. It was thinly lined with the red flower stalks of the green moss that grew on the rocky outcrop in the gully below. The eggs were white, marked with small and medium specks of reddish brown sparsely distributed over the eggs except at the larger end where they were thickly clustered so as to form an ill-defined wreath. They most resemble those of the Kentucky Warbler but are smaller.

The nest was found by my flushing the bird at a distance of 7 feet as I slowly climbed the slope. She was abnormally agitated and nervous, the cause of which will be explained further on. The bird coasted down the slope 10 feet, fluttered on a yard further and came to a stop under some green leaves at the foot of a sapling. I stood watching her for several minutes and she did not move, the whole performance being abnormal for a warbler being flushed from its nest by a human being. Finally, I turned my head and located the nest opening on the slope above me and a foot below it, the cause for the bird's nervousness. There, with head extended and with its course laid directly toward the nest, was a box turtle. The warbler had heard the stealthy approach of the reptile and when flushed had become highly nervous from the strain.

Carrying the turtle away, I returned in an hour and found the parent sitting serenely. She permitted photographing at a distance of 3 feet and did not leave the nest until I had caressed her with a leaf-tipped switch. She then arose, glided 30 feet down the slope and on away into the woods below. As she sat upon the nest, her back and tail showed uniform green in color but her head was conspicuous with its six buffy yellow stripes separated by dark lines. The only previous nest record for Tennessee was of one found by E. McNish, 15 miles N.E. of the present location, and which on May 7, 1922, held 5 fresh eggs (see *Wilson Bul.*, 1933, 35: 55-56).—ALBERT F. GANIER, Nashville.

"WHISPER SONG" OF A PINE WARBLER: While collecting birds in the pine-palmetto barrens on June 12, 1941, about a mile northeast of Waycross, Ga., the writer heard a delicately varied but much suppressed song. Before long its owner was found to be a Pine Warbler (*Dendroica p. pinus*), working along the boughs and among the needle clusters of a fair-sized long-leaf. Although the species was common in the vicinity, this bird's identity was made certain through 8x30 binoculars. The song recalled that of the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and indeed was equal to the gnatcatcher's in quality and execution. It was repeated several times. Hence this "whisper song", barely audible, was superior in effect to the ordinary trill of this warbler.——A review of the literature on hand yields no instance of whisper-singing in this species. Chreswell Hunt, in his paper "The Pine Warbler's Song" (*Audubon Annual Bulletin*, No. 19: 5-7, 1928), writes considerably on the voice of this warbler but mentions nothing other than its "monotonous little trill."——Bird species known to sing in an undertone, from the personal observation of Mrs. F. C. Laskey, are listed in her article "Whisper Songs and Night Singing (*Migrant*, 6: 1-2, 1935). Watchfulness for new records of this type of singing was thus encouraged.—ROBERT NORRIS, Tifton, Georgia.

HARRIS'S SPARROW IN SHELBY COUNTY:—On Dec. 28, 1939, when snow and ice covered the ground, I caught a peculiar looking sparrow among a group of 6 White-crowns and White-throats. While being removed from the trap he got away. On Jan. 2, 1940, I caught what was evidently this same individual again. He was banded at once and taken to the house for checking against descriptions and illustrations of sparrows. The bird was the size of a Fox Sparrow with a peculiar scaly head effect. His breast was spotted with black and his upperparts were light grayish brown. From these characteristics I identified him as an immature male Harris's Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*). The bird was later shown to Burdick and to Coffey for confirmation. When released the next morning he pumped his tail in the fashion of a Song Sparrow and flew to the top of a bush 50 feet distant, from where he gave a note resembling that of the White-throated Sparrow. Three days later Burdick and I possibly saw him again. On Jan. 13 Coffey and party, including Albert F. Ganier of Nashville, made an unsuccessful search for him. A lookout has been kept for this species but no other records have materialized to date. Our dairy is located 2 miles east of the Memphis city limits.—JOE MASON, JR., Memphis.

**NOTE:—This is the second Tennessee record for this species. On Dec. 10, 1933, Mrs. Amelia R. Laskey trapped and banded an immature male Harris's Sparrow as described in *The Auk* (April, 1934, 51, pp. 245-246) and mentioned in these pages (1934, p. 15).——EDITOR.**

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AN INVITATION:—Mud Lake, near Memphis, promises to be attractive to shore birds and herons this season, about Labor Day and the week-ends following in September. Come down and let's look for Egrets, Wood Ibises, etc. See past September issues for possibilities. We will keep 'tab' on water level and birds present; therefore can advise you of conditions if you write us. There was no 'field week' of the T.O.S. this summer.—B.C.

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Neil Wyatt, 840 Greer.

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## MURFREESBORO CHAPTER

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Claude Shacklett.
Bob Thompson, 1107 Eaton St.
Jimmy White, 441 Phillips St., Dyersburg, Tenn.

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## With Our Members

Within a June week Franklin McCamey, Jr. (*late* of Memphis) received his M.S. from the Yale School of Forestry, was married to Miss Virginia Taber of Lakeville, Conn., and joined the staff of the New England Museum of Natural History. Last summer Franklin was nature study counselor for a group of camps near Boston, serving under the supervision of the Museum. With two assistants he is handling a similar assignment this season and has become permanently connected with the Museum as an educational assistant

Eugene Wallace—we are afraid, also late of Memphis—received his B.S. in forestry from L.S.U. and went to work at once for the Louisiana Dept. of Conservation as field biologist. Gene is now at Ruston, La. and is engaged in a quail study project. L.S.U. will, however, have to put up with another Memphis T.O.S. member for four more years as Austin Burdick, Jr. is planning to enter there this fall. Joe Mason plans to matriculate at the Texas School of Mines

FLASH!—A new member arrived July 8, 1941, at Knoxville—William Massie Walker, III. Congratulations to recent past-president Bill and the Mrs.

## Review

A FIELD GUIDE TO WESTERN BIRDS, by Roger Tory Peterson (Houghton Mifflin Company, 1941; pp. 1-240, 46 plates; price $2.75).

This is not a western state but T.O.S. members will welcome this handbook patterned after the author's famous "Field Guide" widely used by all bird students interested in the birdlife from the Rockies east. Together the two cover the entire country. The new guide will be useful in the case of accidental stragglers from the West. More particularly it is the aid that many of our members have wished for on trips thru the West. It will add to the enjoyment and interest of such a journey. Now that we have our copy all we need is a western trip. Robt. Tucker saw the book and bemoaned the fact he didn't have it last year on a journey to the coast. A few weeks later the Tuckers were headed for Yellowstone. The American Ornithologists Union meets in Denver, September 1-4,—a good chance for such a trip and to get together with others of similar interest.

May we suggest that those of our members who do not yet have the eastern "Field Guide to the Birds" secure a copy. We know you will get a lot more out of your interest in birds in yard, park, woods, and field, if you use this easy aid to knowing your bird neighbors personally by name. Both the guides can be secured from the Methodist Publishing House, 810 Broadway, Nashville (see inside front cover).—B. C.

THE MIGRANT

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*it is not necessary to go beyond it."*

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## TO YOU

Your editor has been unable to compose, reproduce, and mail letters to you on one or two matters deserving such attention. In using this page as a personal letter to you, he asks your indulgence and attention.

Thru the generosity and good will of Dr. S. T. Rucker, of Memphis, who contributed $20 to *The Migrant*, subscriptions for 1941 were entered for a number of libraries, Junior colleges, and schools in our state. This is notification to any such institution that receives a marked copy. We hope that there will be some that thru these pages will share with Dr. Rucker and all our members, a love and appreciation of the birds about us. For many years Dr. Rucker's own beautiful grounds near Memphis formed an ideal and purposeful wildlife sanctuary.

A start on this issue was not undertaken until after July 6. Frankly, we planned to go afield on our week-ends this May and June and we stuck to our schedule even when we found our evenings unavailable for these pages. On July 6 we had copy for about six pages. We appreciate the response to our S.O.S. and feel that our contributors have again given you a fine issue. But we are asking that more of you send in articles and notes. We particularly want short notes from all over the state. Frankly, we are disappointed in not being able to have a seasonal resume from key areas in every issue. Supply the regional editor with your field notes. He won't use them in their entirety but he will be able to give a better picture or at least the highlights of the field work in your area. Some of you might be able to take over the assignment in order to share the responsibility.

Perusal of past issues will give an idea of the style and the kind of material. Doubtful records should never appear in print, unusual ones should have details. If the notes can be typed, please double space. Do not hold back if all you have a chance to do is to scribble a few rough notes. Just give us some time on them. NOW—please send all material on hand as soon as possible, and all seasonable material before September 5.

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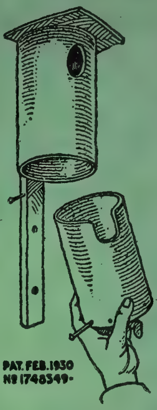
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**H. P. IJAMS**
**R.D.9. KNOXVILLE, TENN.**

ONE LESS HAWK:—My friend gave me this tale the other day, and thinking so well of it, I pass it on to our bird folk. Being a fancier of chickens, my friend had accumulated flocks of several varieties, among them a pen of game chickens, comprising one cock and six hens. Due to her venomous nature one of these hens was named 'Jezebel'. Jezebel was always starting a fight with one of the other hens of the group, and at such times the cock would rush between the two and seemed to say "now you girls quit your fighting," whereupon the disagreement would cease, but always with a look of dissatisfaction on the part of Jezebel.——Last spring Jezebel brought off six youngsters, and when fully half grown a Red-tailed Hawk lit among them for ominous reasons. Jezebel met the Hawk head on, and being endowed with unusual spurs for a hen, put up a winning fight. Viewing this thus far from the house, my friend decided he had better go out to see that the Hawk did no damage, which was wholly unnecessary, for by the time he reached the scene, Jezebel was on top of the Hawk pecking and beating with her wings until the Hawk seemed to be thoroughly subdued. When the smoke of battle cleared away, the Hawk was seen to have a broken wing and the head was so battered that it was thought best to dispose of it.—H. S. VAUGHN, Nashville.

———oOo———

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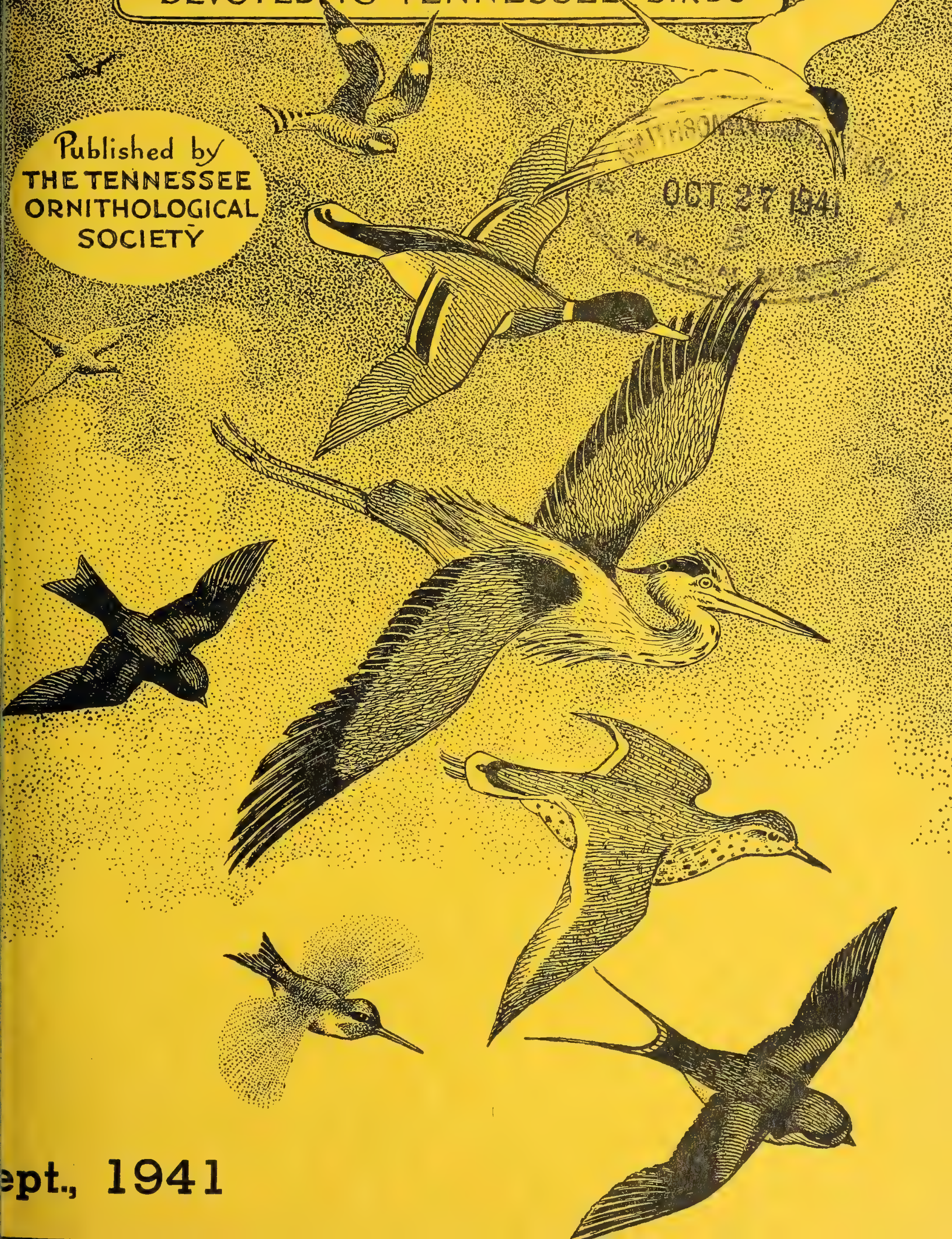

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# THE MIGRANT

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## AUGUST, THE SILENT MONTH FOR BIRD SONG—II.

By George R. Mayfield

In the September *Migrant* for the year 1940 this writer discussed at length the reasons why the eighth month of our calendar year should be called the "Silent Month." An experience at dawn on the morning of this recent August 20 will further confirm the data given in the first article mentioned above.

A streak of color is just beginning to show in the east and the hour on this particular morning is 5:15 (Standard Time). Neither the Chuck-will's-widow, the Nighthawk, nor the Purple Martin feel the urge to greet the light of a new day with a song, as had been their wont during those rare mornings in June. For several minutes a dead silence reigns and then a Wood Thrush begins his chattering scold which seems in sharp contrast to his usual morning hymn of praise. After many efforts there comes just one bar of those silvery arpeggios which mark him as the sweetest singer in birddom. This is a signal for the Carolina Wren (now returned to Birds-I-View after a season of nesting absence since January, 1940) to reveal that he is thoroughly awake. His song at this time is that of mid-summer and justifies for him the title 'All-the-year-round Singer'. Varied songs and calls continue at intervals some fifteen minutes and then he, too, lapses into silence.

The imperious chirp of the Cardinal sounds about 5:30 as he leads his modest wife and only offspring to the feeding shelf where some watermelon seed could be halved for the goodies in them. One or two short strains of music from him and then silence, except for the teasing calls of the young bird hungry from the long hours of the night. Usually the Indigo Bunting, the Cuckoo, the Pewee and the Crested Flycatcher are awake by this time, but their voices keep a solemn silence.

Across the road in the bushy field can be heard the plaintive notes of the Field Sparrow which continue longer in August than those of any other species. At intervals the Towhee tries out his voice but it lacks the beauty and the power of those spring songs which last from dawn almost till dark. Nor can one hear the Chat, the Maryland Yellow-throat, the Kentucky Warbler, the Prairie Warbler, the Sycamore Warbler (so constant with his music), or the Bob-white.

Then comes the twittering of the Goldfinch as he rises and falls on the air waves like some magic boat as it rides the rolling waters. He lit in the tree just outside my window and continued a low but almost ecstatic melody which indicates that the young have just left the nest and are the delight of the father's heart as he flits busily from tree to tree. The Crows and the Jays are now awake and in small groups they make their way through the trees, disturbing what birds are still drowsy from the night's slumber. A lone Bluebird is flying far overhead with a querulous murmur which characterizes the solitary flight song of this species in August. The Mourning Dove usually calls before the sun rises and can be heard cooing until late August, but our pair has already deserted Birds-I-View, for what reason I do not know. The Meadowlark is absolutely silent. No, there comes a scolding chatter to reveal his presence in the lush grass across the river, haunts which had of late been vocal with cheery music. The Blue-gray Gnatcatcher sounds his thin quaver as he feeds in the trees just outside my window. There is none of that low but joyous melody which one hears all through April and May as he darts busily from limb to limb in search of food.

Where are the Vireos is my next musing query. These are generally the late risers, but it is now halfway between dawn and sunrise and they are still unheard. Then comes the shortened and subdued "Chip-per-per-wee-we" of the White-eye. Just a few times and he shuts up as if peeved with his own rehearsal. The Red-eye mews a few times as is his custom when Jays are around, and he essays a few bars of that monotonous song which entitles him to the nickname 'the Preacher'. That is all as compared to those days when every tree seemed vibrant with the music of these abundant singers. Chickadees and Titmice drop down on the feeding shelf and take turns hammering out the juicy hearts of cantaloupe seeds. The Titmouse finds that watermelon seeds are easy, too, as he holds them in his toes and busily knocks the dicotyledons apart. And still not a sound from any of the many warblers in the trees and field nearby.

Another bird calling. Oh, yes, it is the cry of a Summer Tanager which scolds a teasing youngster for his insatiable appetite. All through the day in late August these hungry brats follow their parents and I believe I saw a peeved mother give the youngster a peck on his tender head instead of handing him a juicy insect. And who could blame her for this final warning to shut his hungry mouth? And those harsh chucks nearby prove that an enemy has been spied by a pair of Brown Thrashers. Some wandering feline is near and the Catbird joins with the Thrashers and the bevy of other birds to make life miserable for his 'Serene Highness,' Mr. Tomcat.

Now the sun is peeping over the distant hills to light up the dark corners in the valley of Stone's River. The latest riser of the bird world twitters overhead as the lazy Chimney Swift (or is this slander since he flys the whole day long without once resting) crawls out of his sooty bed and warbles a few notes. Then more silence, only the blessed Carolina Wren sings with jubilant notes and the listener realizes all too well that the August

"Days are come
The saddest of the year."

NASHVILLE, August, 1941.

# DO BIRDS THINK?

BY BERT POWELL

Science contends that birds and animals have no power of thought or reason, but rely solely on instinct to provide them with substance and safety. I do not denounce this theory but my observations have been such that I must, at least, accept a modification rather than the absolute. I have seen (I am sure you all have) instances in which instinct was coupled with reason or thought.

The Aesop fable of the Raven that dropped stones into a partially filled water-jug in order to make the water rise to a drinking level, is applicable to the Bronzed Grackle which will invariably soften hard bread in water before attempting to eat it. Last winter I saw Grackles take crusts of hard bread from the feeding shelf and fly to the bird bath where they would soften the food in water. Starlings also followed this practice. This summer I witnessed a parent Grackle instructing his three squalling half-grown youngsters in the gentle art of 'dunking'. The adult bird picked up a large piece of bread and dropped it into the water, picked it up and repeated the performance, all the while the young birds were perched on the edge of the birdbath watching. When the bread was soft enough, the birds noisily devoured it.

How did these birds learn to do this? Bread is a comparatively new food for birds—certainly not a natural one—and as the Grackle's beak is not equipped to break the hard crust, the bird had to think how it could be eaten. Instinct told him it was edible, but intelligence showed the way in which it could be consumed.

Housewives may complain about the untidiness of the English Sparrow, the bird student may berate him for driving off other birds (?), but friend and foe alike admit that he is clever. The English Sparrow is dirty, a bully, an urchin of the bird world; but his resourcefulness, backed up by his pugnaciousness, has earned him many a tid-bit. During last winter's short-lived snow, I enjoyed a drama of exceeding interest between a Blue Jay, a Bronzed Grackle, and a smutty English Sparrow. The Grackle had picked up the last remaining piece of bread (on the feed tray) and was about to fly off with it; a Blue Jay flew down and tried to take the bread away from its rightful owner. A lot of fuss resulted and a watchful Sparrow came 'double-time' to the scene of action. The Grackle, of course, dropped the bread and the ever ready Sparrow seized the prize before the contenders could take up the pursuit. The thief-in-feathers left to enjoy his booty. The Sparrow, by adopting the policy of "the smart take away from the strong" as his personal philosophy, dined par excellence.

The reason why people say that birds (and other animals) have no powers of thought is that by comparison to our own intellect the antics of resourcefulness that the birds show are dwarfed or absolutely unnoticed. It is certainly more than instinct to allow a bird such as the Indian Mynah to talk. I have in my scrapbook a clipping from the *Honolulu Advertiser* about a "bi-lingual" Mynah—a bird that can talk in Japanese and English. In the San Diego Zoo I heard a Mynah with a vocabulary of astonishing variety (this bird spoke with a clear enunciation). It certainly takes more than plain instinct for a "dumb" bird to learn to speak; learning requires thinking and thinking is not an instinct reaction.

I realize that this issue is highly controversial and that more than one member of the T.O.S. will disagree—some may even agree—but I feel certain that birds do use a modified form of thought. It goes without saying, however, that instinct predominates.

MEMPHIS, August, 1941.

# TRAMPING WITH THE BIRD MAN—X-XIII

BY BRUCE P. TYLER

## X. SICK DAYS

It is early April and the Bird Man finds himself laid low by an encounter with old man Streptococcus—yes, "Strep Throat" and Quinsey. Fast in the bed and the birds migrating! Unfortunate but all too true.

One might ask why it is that poets or dreaming writers of prose sing of trees and rivulets as if they were alive as men are. They refer to the spirit of springtime, a living thing—it is even so. Why, then, should there be wonder if one who has spent a lifetime with the birds, sees in them a living spirit, an understanding beyond the ken of man. As it appears to the Bird Man, we have but scratched the wisdom of the birds. Perhaps we will never know the whys and wherefores of avian activities: likely not, as many of the rudimentary activities of the birds are wrapt in antiquity far preceding the advent of man on earth. Yet, we have a little knowledge, dangerously little, on the subject.

But the Bird Man is ill and impatient—the birds are migrating. Now, of all the beautiful songs of our native birds the Bird Man loves best is the soft, gentle warbling song of the Rose-breasted Grosbeak. How often has he lain prone on the floor of the forest listening, listening in ecstacy to their beloved songs. This day, while the Bird Man tosses restlessly on a sick bed, the Rosebreasts were migrating and singing in the tree tops of the forest. Day dreaming thusly, there comes to the ears of the Bird Man the soft, sweet note of his sylvan friend—yes, there can be no doubt of it—in one of the liriodendron, very near by, the Rosebreast is singing—and this in the city. Many years of observation has never revealed this bird in town, yet, here he was singing his heart out to his friend. The succeeding morning he came again and sang as before. The Bird Man could hardly believe his ears, but it was true. His nurse pulled aside the curtain and there, in full view, sat the Rosebreast singing, singing, and while he watched it flew away to its woodland home, leaving behind cheer and a better spirit for the fight. Can any tell why this lovely bird left its beloved forest and came to sing a soft comfort to the Bird Man?

## XI. KEEN INTELLIGENCE

The Bird Man is the happy possessor of a conservatory, not of extensive proportions, but supplying ample space for amateurish ventures in propagation and the raising of seedlings for the garden. There are two doors, two windows and two weep holes in the structure. Through the doors and windows birds frequently enter and, having entered, fail to find the way to a safe retreat and often fly against the glass, ceaselessly seeking an exit where none exists. Sometimes by keeping away to avoid scaring the bird, it finds safe exit. Occasionally I find the lifeless body of a bird amid the plants. On one occasion I found a Ruby-throated Hummingbird lying quietly among the pansies, beautiful beyond description. I took it in my hand holding it in the open palm. I took it out to show it to Mrs. Bird Man but she was not to see it. As I stroked its plumage it suddenly opened one eye, then another, and noting its strange surroundings it sprang into the air and from the top of a nearby apple tree contemplated upon the strange incident, and likely in its own way, thanked and loved the Bird Man.

But all this is only introductory to its real theme. The term weep hole is more or less technical, so to explain, in this case, the two weep holes mentioned are sections of two inch iron pipe set in the concrete wall at lowest points to provide drainage. Within the structure they are at corners and on the floor, without, they emerge just above the surface of the ground. Now at times during the winter months, the Winter Wren comes to visit us in the lower elevations (1700 feet above sea level). One of these boreal visitors came to stay with me for a few weeks and chose for his quarters my greenery. I was very much surprised one morning upon opening the door to note his welcome presence. I retreated at once, fearing to scare him so badly that he would fly against the glass and injure himself, but as I came around the corner of the glazed enclosure I noted the bird fast bound for the shrubbery. Could it be the bird that was in the Conservatory? No! All the doors and windows were closed, but search failed to disclose his presence indoors. How could he have left so promptly? Days followed and my pet roosted within the conservatory, yet at will he fed in the garden and enjoyed the solitude of the shrubbery. My vigilance was soon to be rewarded; the wren had found the weep holes, never closed, and understood them, and so had used them for his entrance to comfortable sleeping quarters and to a refuge from the cats. At the approach of the Bird Man, he simply ducked under the bench and out the weep hole, to return at his pleasure. What is this but keen intelligence!

## XII. CATS ET CETERA

To the urban dweller who loves the birds and seeks to have them nest in his door yard, nothing is more disturbing than the presence of felis domesticus.

The Bird Man has labored with this difficulty for many years, even unto the present time. The implements used to rid the premises of the cats have been three; the pistol, the rifle, and the box trap. The two first mentioned remedies are more or less dangerous to use in town. The box trap is ideal, if such a thing can be.

One year the cats were remorseless in their destruction, and apparently legion in numbers, which brought about severest relief measures by the Bird Man. Four fell to the pistol, one to the rifle, and four to the box trap. These were what we call alley cats, strays, with no home. They live from garbage cans, and on mice, rats and birds. Four years in succession the baby Bluebirds were destroyed which led to the parent birds deserting their home. The baby Robins were killed as soon as they left the nest, and on one occasion a cat destroyed nest and young high in an apple tree.

There is little of interest in shooting and burying a cat where it can do the most good, viz, under the grape vines; but the procedure in the case of a trapped cat is quite another matter. The box is set and baited with a small fish—a tid-bit for pussy. After making the night hideous, morning brings the cats out in search of food and the scent of fish fills them with that primeval urge and the thought of filling their maw with fishie blinds them to the danger of the trap. They enter, eat, and the door, the port cullis, falls and they are prisoners. A well directed pistol shot ends their career and they are gathered unto their fathers and sleep beneath the vines.

On one early morning occasion the Bird Man noted that the trap was sprung, and as he was leaving on a business trip, he spoke to his colleague, "Bob", requesting that he attend to the last rites for pussy. In moving the trap to a convenient location for the kill, Bob noted the extreme weight and commented "That is the heaviest cat we ever caught," and sure enough, it was. The pistol spoke and the door opened revealing a huge opossum, which was so fat that it could not turn in the trap. Some said it must have weighed twenty pounds. In due course the body was delivered to a friendly negro who reported very favorably upon the excellency of its flesh.

After each kill in the trap, it was cleansed, sunned and rebaited and was effective until fatalities among the cats became a matter of discussion at the cat congress. Most of them had disappeared but one old tom who loved to sleep beneath an overhanging plant in the peony garden. He was dangerous as could be to the birds and distasteful to the Bird Man, so the trap was produced and placed near the lair. To the surprise of the trappers the trap was not sprung and the old tom disapeared, not to be seen hereabout again, and no more cats entered the trap nor passed on my domain. The cats were on to the game, and in congress assembled they gave notice to beware of Tylers' Garden, where today seven robins feed contentedly and undisturbed.

## XIII. HOMEWARD BOUND

How often, going afield with the birds, one goes too far, not thinking of the homeward steps, until that tired feeling cautions. Thus admonished, the Bird Man turned backwards from a trip and determined to follow the highway, the easiest and most direct route home. Now, it happened, by entire accident, that this was the time for the bus, so in climbed the Bird Man, and reclining in the easy seat, marveled at the efficiency of a gallon of gasoline and the enterprise that made such transportation possible, when, but a few years prior, naught but a long legged mule could have negotiated this road in the spring time. The Bird Man was lost in dreams of the observations of the day and the beauty of the springtime landscape as the bus rambled merrily along. The buzzer buzzed, the bus stopped, and from the passengers there stepped a workman in blue jeans, dinner pail in hand. There was a brief stop to take on other passengers and the Bird Man watched the toiler as he left the pike and climbed a little hill to his abode

—a neat little cottage on a hillside. From the door ran four children, all in blue jeans, except the least one, a little girl. None could have been over five years old. Perhaps, there was a pair of twin boys. In the doorway stood the mother wreathed in smiles. The children hurried down the path to meet their daddy, clinging in ecstacy to his legs, while he gathered up the little girl in his arms and climbed slowly toward his cottage. An illuminating smile passed over the faces of the bus passengers, and well they might smile, for they had had a glimpse into heaven. Surely a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of his possessions.

JOHNSON CITY, September, 1941.

# SUMMER RANGE OF MID-SOUTH TOWHEES

By BEN B. COFFEY

The Red-eyed Towhee (*pipilo erythrophthalmus erythrophthalmus*) is a fairly common to common winter resident in the Mid-South, arriving about October 10 at Memphis and remaining here as late as May 8. Because it is also a fairly common nesting species at Nashville, its absence was noticeable to me the first summer (1928) after I became a resident of Memphis. At this time, as now, Mr. Albert F. Ganier was assisting and encouraging my ornithological studies in a pioneer territory, by correspondence and other means. In his early days our mentor personally knew every bird around Vicksburg, Miss. and found the Towhee nesting there, although not as common then as in winter. Thus it seemed to him that this species was being overlooked at Memphis and to me that here was a local problem in distribution to be worked out.

As I became more familiar with the distribution of our bird life in this area I resolved to see, at some date, how close to Memphis the Towhee came in its summer range. In 1936 after some prior desultory correspondence I wrote all bird students and those interested in wildlife in the Mid-South. Scoutmasters in the territory under survey were written—the various Scout Executives in Mississippi, Eastern Arkansas, and West Tennessee furnishing me their names and those of naturalists. Various trips were made along the border of the summer territory of the species in order to ascertain its approximate outline. A close watch was kept on all other trips also. Certain of our Rover Scout naturalists served as Nature study leaders at Mississippi Scout camps and looked for it especially.

By now it was realized that the breeding bird north and east of us was evidently the common eastern form, the Red-eyed Towhee. The race breeding at Vicksburg and southward was the southern form known as the Alabama Towhee (*pipilo erythrophthalmus canaster*). From Reelfoot Lake to near Vicksburg there appears to be a definite hiatus in the breeding range of these two almost similar birds but their ranges probably close in and perhaps overlap in northern or central Alabama or northeastern Mississippi. The outlining of the Alabama Towhee's range was, therefore, one of the objectives of a two-weeks bird study trip in central and southern Mississippi, June 7-22, 1936, and one week, June 19-25, 1939, in eastern Mississippi.

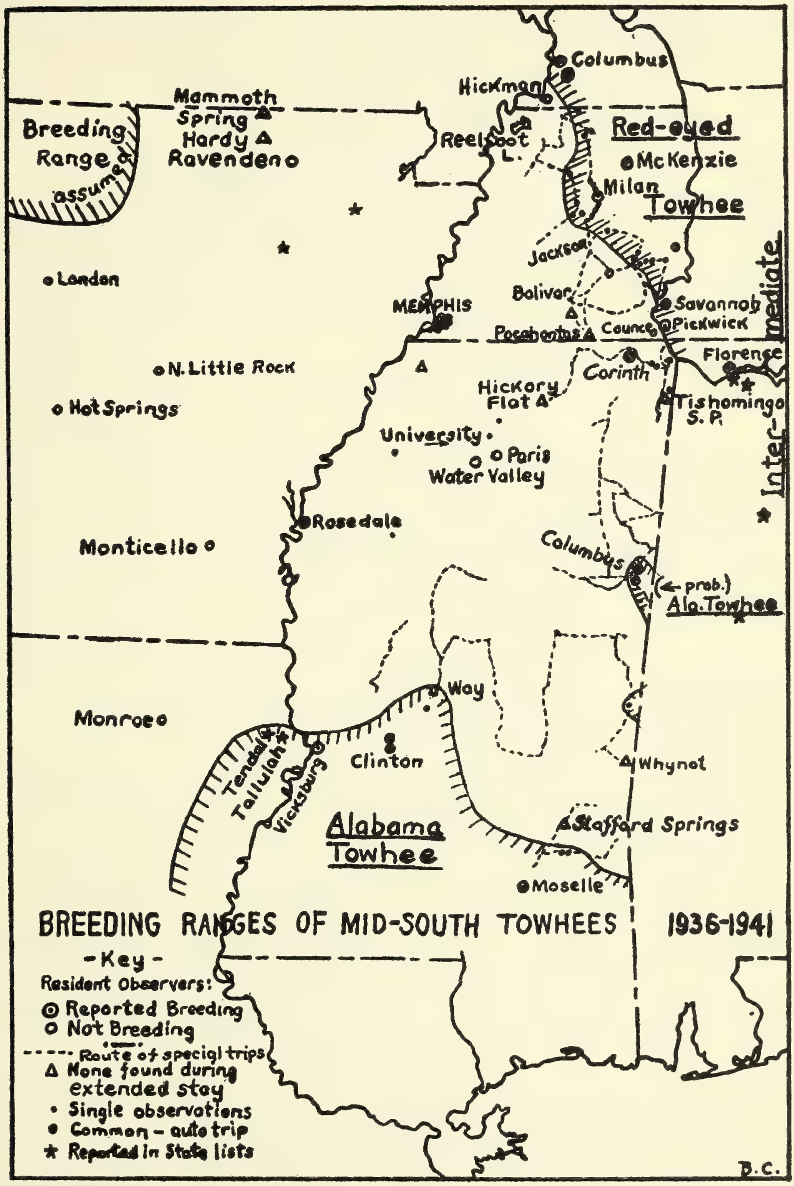
The Towhee is a bird that would be easily noticed and easily identified even by our less experienced correspondents. On our trips when most observations are made at frequent short stops along highway or road, it is not difficult to locate a Towhee, if it is present, within 100 yards or perhaps farther. Some will be passed up, it is true. We had that experience to some extent on return trips to check up on that point. During hot dry afternoons, just about the time we would think no self-respecting Towhee would venture to call under such conditions, then one or more would confound our thoughts at the next listening post. The reports from our observers and our own results on side trips by foot and on extended stays well substantiate the results obtained by the quicker method.

Albert F. Ganier kindly went thru records on his numerous West Tennessee trips, sending us a list of same with data on the Towhees. Those trips made between May 8 and October 10 apparently bear out our conclusions. In fact he records very few Towhees, listing none on several trips in areas where we show them breeding. On Aug. 9, 1926, three were listed near Bruceton; May 26, 1926, one from Saltillo to Shiloh (6-day trip in that area); Sept. 6-7, 1931, three, Pickwick to Savannah, and fairly common, Pickwick, White Sulphur, and Waynesboro.

Wetmore (7) in his "Notes on the birds of Tennessee" indicates that the breeding distribution of the two races of Towhees in Middle and East Tennessee is somewhat involved with numerous intergradations predominating. Unfortunately all West Tennessee specimens taken by the U. S. National Museum party were transients. Those taken at Frayser, April 8, and Hickory Withe, April 12 and 15, 1937, were assumed to be breeding individuals. It is very doubtful that they were.

For Alabama Howell (9) writes "the Alabama race . . . occurs nearly throughout the state, both summer and winter . . . Those from the most northern counties are intermediate." The actual records, when plotted, are scattered. "The northern race is not known to breed."

Since the outlines of these areas were plotted several years ago, several recent records have tended to dispute our theory. The University, Marks, Greenwood, and other records are not necessarily the only possibilities but we believe they are still too infrequent to jeopardize our conclusion that the Towhee rarely breeds in the area shown. Some of the recent exceptions may be in a class with similar Shelby County records (reported in respective 'Seasons') which we were able to check on. A Towhee was found near Ellendale June 5, 1938. It was not there on June 26 nor in subsequent summers. On May 30, 1940, a male was found in Riverside Park. It couldn't be found again an hour later or on subsequent dates. On May 21, 1941, one was again found there and a second nearby; both were absent on the May 30 census and subsequently. Reported in this issue are records at two localities east of town by Mason and Burdick on July 19 and 20, respectively. The birds were not found later. These violate for the first time the rule that the Towhee stays out of this non-breeding area until mid-October when all our bona fide winter residents begin moving in. Altho nesting relatively close to Memphis there is no straggling in during August and September as in the case of warblers and shorebirds. We can offer no explanation for the presence of this species at Rosedale. We have failed to find it at Moon Lake, below Greenville, and other Delta localities. Likewise on the heights S. of Yazoo City, June 2 and 16, 1935.


BREEDING RANGES OF MID-SOUTH TOWHEES 1936-1941
- Key -
Resident Observers:
◎ Reported Breeding
○ Not Breeding
----- Route of special trips
Δ None found during extended stay
• Single observations
● Common - auto trip
★ Reported in State lists
Breeding Range assumed
Mammoth Spring
Hardy
Ravenden
London
N. Little Rock
Hot Springs
Monticello
Monroe
Columbus
Hickman
Reelfoot L.
Red-eyed Towhee
McKenzie
Milan
Jackson
Bolivar
MEMPHIS
Pocahontas
Counce
Savannah
Pickwick
Intermediate
Florence
Corinth
Hickory Flat
Tishomingo S. P.
University
Paris
Water Valley
Rosedale
Columbus
(← prob.)
Ala. Towhee
Way
Clinton
Whynot
Tendal
Tallulah
Vicksburg
Alabama Towhee
Stafford Springs
Moselle
B.C.

We have expressed as best we could in semi-tabular form following the information on which we based our conclusions on the summer range of the two Towhee races. It is not as complete as we would have desired but our field work recently has been curtailed to such extent that we do not see the opportunity to add to our data any time soon; therefore we thought best to offer it now, such as it is. All dates shown are inclusive:

### A. REPORTS OF RESIDENT OBSERVERS

WEST TENNESSEE

| | |
|---|---|
| McKenzie | Rev. Geo. L. Johnson: fairly common (to 1936). |
| Milan | Miss Mamie Knox: fairly common (1940). |
| Milan | H. C. Monk: common in suitable cover, W. to Trenton and N. to Bradford (1941). |
| Pickwick Dam | J. C. Lamon: seen June 28, July 5 & 11 (1936). |
| Counce | Dr. Cynthia Counce: none seen on visits (to 1936). |

MISSISSIPPI

| | |
|---|---|
| Corinth | Benj. R. Warriner: 1 record, same place 1935 & 36. A few records east of town only (See The Season, this issue). |
| Paris | Wm. Shepherd, Jr.: none (1937 to date). |
| Water Valley | M. M. Turner, Jr.: none (1933-37). |
| Rosedale | M. G. Vaiden: common near Rosedale. |
| Scott County | Clay Lyle: common (about 1900). |
| Moselle | Miss Marie Grayson: fairly common. |

ARKANSAS

| | |
|---|---|
| | W. J. Baerg (1): "said to nest mainly in the Ozark region." |
| Monticello | C. M. Owens: none. |
| N. Little Rock | Mrs. Rowland Thomas: none. |
| Hot Springs | Dr. Wm. H. Deaderick (4): none. |
| London | Chas. Miller: none (to 1936). |
| Ravenden | Byron C. Marshall: 1 nest, June 4, 1927, four miles S., no other records (1920-1936). |

SOUTHWEST KENTUCKY

| | |
|---|---|
| Columbus State Park and Clear Lake, Ballard Co. (casual) | R. J. Fleetwood: fairly common (to 1936). |
| Clinton | Mrs. C. C. Robert: fairly common (to 1936). |
| Hickman (casual) | Wendell Whittemore: none (1936). |
| West Ky. & South Ill. | Gordon Wilson: fairly common to common (to 1936). |

OTHER AREAS

| | |
|---|---|
| N. Louisiana (Caddo) | H. H. Kopman: not present (to 1936). |
| N. Louisiana (Monroe) | Lowery (5): absent during the summer. |
| Louisiana | Oberholser (6): the Alabama form breeds north to Tallulah and Tendal, west to Tendal and Baton Rouge. |
| Florence, Ala. | G. A. Craig: 8 nests, 1935: 5 nests, 1936. |
| Florence, Ala. (casual) | Benj. R. Warriner: common, Aug. 10, 1936. |

## B. EXTENDED PERIODS OF OBSERVATION

### WEST TENNESSEE

| | |
|---|---|
| Reelfoot Lake Area | Wendell Whittemore (8): none (June 5 to Sept. 5, 1936). |
| Pocahontas-Hornsby | Dept. of Conservation Survey. Calhoun (2); Pond, Clebsch, Jr.: none. |
| Bolivar | Same: none (combined period—June 17 to Sept. 9, 1939). |

### MISSISSIPPI

| | |
|---|---|
| Hickory Flat (Incidental) | Mrs. Ben Coffey: none (1930 to date). |
| Tishomingo State Park | Ben Coffey (3): 1 at Mingo (June 12-19, 1939). |
| Camp Bianchi, Whynot | Franklin McCamey, Jr.: none (June 8-13, 1937). |
| Camp Waukaway, Stafford Springs | James B. Batson: none (1936). |
| Camp Waukaway | Jim Vardaman: none (Aug. 17-20, 1937: July 11-15, 1938). |
| Camp Dantzler, S. of Hattiesburg | Jim Vardaman: fairly common (Aug., 1937; July 26-28, 1938). |
| Camp Coulter, near Columbia | Jim Vardaman: no records (July 18-20, 1938). |

### ARKANSAS

"Y" Camp, Mammoth Spring None recorded, John Bamberg, summer of 1929. Ben Coffey, Aug. 15-25, Aug. 31-Sept. 3, 1929, plus incidental observations later.

Kamp Kia Kima, Hardy None recorded 1929 to date. Visited each summer by older Scouts and leaders, fair to expert observers, making incidental to active observations. Include Ben Coffey: July 4 holidays in 1929 to 1933; July 17 to 25, 1932. Franklin McCamey: July 28 to Aug. 16, 1934. Fred Fiedler, Jr., June 15-30, 1937. Richard Taylor, June 20 to Aug. 11, 1938; Ben Welch, July 9 to 21, 1938, and Austin Burdick in Aug., 1938. Ben Welch, July 1-24, 1939. Also other scattered unrecorded periods for all observers listed above.

## C. PERSONAL TRIPS

### WEST TENNESSEE

| | |
|---|---|
| 1934: July 14 | Ky. Line at S. Fulton; 9 heard singing, from Hwy. 51. |
| July 15 | Obion River bottoms, on foot to Trimble, stops at Dyersburg and Ripley: none. |
| Sept. 2 | Same as July 15, reversed, and to Reelfoot: none. |

1936: July 12 Brownsville, Humboldt, Dyer, Newbern, Obion, Kenton, Union City, Martin to Jackson, Bolivar, Henderson, Lexington, Jack's Creek: see map.

July 26 Bolivar to Adamsville, Milledgeville, Chester Co. pine belt, Jackson, Lexington, Jack's Creek: see map.

1937: August None at Henderson, several near Humboldt (toward Jackson); few hours each place.

1938: July 2 Somerville to Bolivar: none.

July 2-4 Decaturville: Ben Welch, 4.

1939: Aug. 6 To Pocahontas and Pine Top (same area as in Calhoun's paper): none

1941: June Census at Chickasaw Bluffs (15th), Chickasaw Forest (22nd), and Gallaway-Covington-Stanton (29th), see last issue: none.

June 22 Henderson, Jack's Creek, Reagan, Saltillo, Milledgeville, Henderson: 1 near Reagan.

July 4 Savannah Census, 5 within 6 mi. on Hwy. 69.

MISSISSIPPI

(Delta trips omitted except for accidental records shown.)

1936: April 26 Included as this indicates the species only fairly common during migration. Corinth to Eastport to Short: 7 records.

May 10 Corinth to Iuka to Golden: 1, might be transient.

June 7-22 Trip over entire state. Found fairly common in South Mississippi. Map shows doubling back (daytime) to work out border of the range. Laurel, Stafford Springs, Carmichael, Waynesboro, Laurel, Forest, Meridian, Whynot, Macon, Louisville, Newton, Forest, Kosciusko, Durant, Way (recorded), Lexington, Carrollton, Columbus.

July 26 Hickory Flat, Walnut, Corinth, Blue Springs: none.

1937: June 12 Memphis to Oxford and Paris: none.

June 13 Columbus, SE; then NE to Greenwood Springs; pair on NE edge of Columbus.

1938: July 3-4 Tishomingo State Park: none.

July 4 Iuka to Eastport: 1; also 1, 8.2 mi. W. of Iuka.

July 10 Spring Lake State Park: 1, 6.6 mi. S.; University: 1 just west of same (also recorded June 1 by Shepherd).

July 18 Charleston: Wm. Shepherd, none.

1939: June 12 To Tishomingo S. P. (via Selmer, Iuka): none. See Section "B" for June 12-19.

June 19-21 Tishomingo, Booneville, Tombigbee S. P., Shannon, Greenwood Springs, Aberdeen to Columbus: none.

June 22 Columbus: 3 locations N.

June 23 Columbus: 6 records in lowlands between river junction; 1 N. and 1 in town.

June 24-25 Columbus to State College, Okolona, Buena Vista, Calhoun City, Pontotoc: none.

July 23 To Sardis, Oxford, Spring Lake S.P.: pair at 1938 University location above, other locale cut over.

**1940: May 18** To Booneville (via Tupelo): 1 at Red Banks, might be transient.
**May 19** Tishomingo S.P., and to Eastport: none.
**May 26** Greenwood Area, 1 W. of Avalon in bottomland with Swainson's Warbler. Return via Webb, Marks, Jonestown: 1 S. of Marks.
**July 4** To Spring Lake S.P., Oxford: none. University locale of 1938, 1939 about half cut over.
**1941: May 17** To Booneville (via Tupelo): none.
**May 18** Tishomingo S.P., Iuka, Cook's Ldg., Burnsville; 2 records from highway near latter. Probably same area as July 4, 1938, W. of Iuka.

We wish to express our appreciation to the ornithologists, wild life lovers, Scout leaders, and others who so generously furnished information for their respective localities or helped us to contact others, and to the Scouts assisting us on field trips and at camps.

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MEMPHIS, September 25, 1941.

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Chimney Swift 39-93352, banded Sept. 10, 1938, at Memphis, has an interesting history. It was in a fall flock at Southwestern and was classed as an immature bird. On my first attempt at summer banding, June 30, 1940, it was one of a flock of about 45 in the same Palmer Hall chimney. On July 7 it was one of about 10 still using the chimney. Among the fall flocks of 1940 we found it Sept. 22 at Idlewild School, 1.6 miles south, and in the big flock downtown, Oct. 13, 4 miles southwest. On May 16, 1941, Mrs. C. H. Moore found the bird in her home at 1243 N. McLean, 1 mile northwest of the college. It was released in good condition. Here's hoping this enterprising Swift shows up again.

# THE SEASON

MEMPHIS AREA:—Again as in past years during late summer the attraction for Memphis bird students has been Mud Lake, located on the Tenn.-Miss. line. The writer with Joe Mason, Ben Welch, and Robert Tucker made weekly trips to this bird haven from July 20 until Sept. 1. Quite a number of rarities were recorded and birds as a whole were above the average in numbers. On July 20 the water was still up into the willows and the only shore birds present were 3 Spotted and 3 Solitary Sandpipers. At one end in very shallow water, the following birds were seen: 5 Wood Ibises, 4 Snowy Egrets, 60 Am. Egrets, 100 Little Blue Herons, 8 Blue-winged Teals, and 5 Wood Ducks while 3 Anhingas sailed overhead. Few swallows were seen on the levee at this time although among them were a very early Barn Swallow and 5 Tree Swallows. By July 27 the water level had fallen and there was a little shore line, along which were seen: 1 Semipalmated, 10 Spotted, 20 Solitary, 10 Least, and 20 Pectoral Sandpipers. 2 Yellow-crowned Night Herons were also seen. Along the levee about 25,000 Swallows (Rough-winged, Bank, and Tree) were seen. On Aug. 3 the lake was still lower and shore birds were more numerous. New arrivals were: Semipalmated Plover, 3; Greater Yellowlegs, 2; and Western Sandpiper, 2. Black Terns were first seen on Aug. 10 when 6 were recorded. On Aug. 17 no additional species were seen although the shore birds had increased. On Aug. 22 a new visitor appeared in the form of a Forster's Tern. This bird was seen at very close range and was still present Aug. 24 when it was also seen by Ganier, Coffey, and party. 8 (Eastern?) Dowitchers were seen both the 22nd and 24th. On the latter date, before Ganier and party arrived, a Glossy Ibis was seen flying over the lake. The bird was seen at close range by Tucker and Welch as it flew from Miss. into Tenn. It is not certain whether this bird was of the Eastern or White-faced sub-species as they are practically indistinguishable in the field during autumn. However, this was probably a White-faced as they are supposed to range farther north than the Eastern. This is the second record for this area (see *The Migrant*, 1932, p. 28) but the first for Tennessee. Shore birds reached a peak on Aug. 24. Pectorals had increased to 800, Least to 400, Semipalmateds to 300, Westerns to 20, L. Yellowlegs to 100, and Semipalmated Plovers to 30. Also, 250 Wood Ibis were seen at the west end of Horn Lake and about 400 White Pelicans were seen circling in the distance toward the river. On Sept. 1, heavy rains had filled Mud Lake and no birds of interest were present.——On July 19, Mason reported a Towhee just east of town. The writer saw 2 Towhees the following day about 2 miles from Mason's. This is a very rare summer bird in the Memphis area; these were probably stragglers as they were not found on later trips.——Mississippi Kites again nested in Overton Park as immature birds were seen on Aug. 16.——Warblers arrived very early this year and they are listed as follows: Black-throated Green on July 28, Yellow on Aug. 1, Blue-winged on Aug. 7, Worm-eating, Canada, and Cerulean on Aug. 11, Magnolia on Aug. 14, Cape May on Aug. 20, Nashville on Aug. 21, Golden-winged on Aug. 24, Tennessee on Aug. 25, Blackburnian and Chestnut-sided on Aug. 26. Black and White and Parula Warblers were quite numerous during the summer months; the former apparently after the nesting season. Tucker reports the last Swainson's Warbler on Aug. 7 and on Aug. 20 he saw a Common Tern on Wolf River. On Aug. 22 an Olive-sided Flycatcher was seen on a tall cypress along the levee at Mud Lake—this is the first record for the Memphis area. Aug. 24, a Western Meadowlark was heard singing near Lakeview. Although this bird was in Miss. it should be found in Tenn. in the near future. A very early Marsh Hawk was seen by Mason at his place on Aug. 19.—Empidonax Flycatchers were quite numerous this fall.——On Sept. 3, a Whip-poor-will was seen by the writer in Nonconnah bottoms.——Upland Plovers were first seen on July 20 near home and have been heard very often since as they passed over during the night. Large flocks of Nighthawks and Kingbirds have been seen this fall, rapidly moving southward.——Coffey reports a second nesting site of the Barn Swallow in this area. On July 2 a pair were seen at a wood bridge on the Penal Farm and the nest found underneath. Standing in the dry ditch bed he lacked a foot of reaching the nest for examination of contents. The road and bridge were new. The field where Grasshopper Sparrows are usually heard each June, had been cut, but one of this species was heard to the eastward. On July 13 Welch found a Lark Sparrow along the L.&N., a block east of Coffey Grounds. The bird was there a short time later when Coffey had to be shown. Joe Mason found one on his place on July 23.——About 5:30 A.M. on the 21st Coffey heard Jays and a Mocker scolding and hurriedly raised a bedroom shade. This frightened up a large hawk from the bird bath just outside. The bird perched in a sweet gum, a few feet above the walk. and facing the front door. From this lookout it was identified as a Red-shouldered Hawk.—AUSTIN BURDICK, JR., Box 6732, University, La.

CORINTH CHAT:—Though plentiful in the Corinth area in winter, the Towhee is a rarity here in summer. I have records of the birds in the vicinity that lies some six or seven miles east, toward the Alabama line, along Highway 72. I have seen and heard them there in June, July and August. At one spot I have not failed to find the Towhee a single time, the last date being Aug. 9. This evidence indicates that this particular area is the westernmost border of the bird's summer range, so far as this general section of the country is concerned. At considerable distances on the south and north, the Towhee nests, but it seems that it is only on the east that a few individuals come near. Several summers ago I heard a lone bird singing at Waukomis Lake, 5 miles southeast, and last summer I saw one at Pickwick Dam.——During the past June and early July I enjoyed making a little study of the Chuck-will's-widow. The most interesting conclusion from my observations was that the bird sticks during the season to a very definitely fixed spot. In driving over the county almost every early evening during the period, between sundown and dark, I found twelve such places. I went to each one often enough to find positively that the individual bird was in the habit of calling from exactly the same spot at practically the same hour each day. A space of one acre would cover the ground where I could go and find the Chuck-will's-widow greeting the approaching night with his weird call. Perhaps a mile or so farther down the road I would drive to another patch of woods, stop and listen. Soon came the call from the same place it had come the night before. Doubtless in their search for food they do a bit of meandering, but return for the long daylight stretch to very definite haunts, where likely their nests are located. A few times I found birds flat on the ground in the dust in some country road, with their spooky eyes shining like those of some bigger and wilder creature. Just as I thought the car would run over a bird, the little befeathered ghost would rise swiftly and miss the blow by inches. ——On May 11 I found my first Blackburnian Warbler, at the end of a search that had lasted nearly fifteen years. The elusive sprite was feeding in the tiptop of a tall cypress tree in Tuscumbia Bottom. Come next May I will be scrutinizing every cypress in the country. (Editor's note — and get a stiff neck, too.)——For a period of three weeks a flock of Bobolinks cavorted in the reeds and tall grass of a meadow that borders along Cane Creek. From the tiny silver bell that is the throat of a Bobolink comes the sweetest music in all Birdland. It is true that the bird's call or whistle does have a slight metallic sound; but the real song itself is a soft musical tinkle, expressive of all of the beauty of a meadow that blooms in May.——One Yellow-crowned Night Heron, one Sora, most furtive of all birds, and thanks to friend Ben Coffey, one Painted Bunting, are the three rare ones on my list for the season. The Bunting was exactly where Ben said he would be and doing exactly what he said he would be doing— perched on a telephone wire near a Memphis cotton compress plant, and singing his little heart out in the last place on earth where one would look for bird so beautiful.——BENJ. R. WARRINER, Corinth, Miss.

# THE ROUND TABLE

AN INDIGO BUNTING IN DECEMBER AT NASHVILLE:—On Dec. 6, 1940, I trapped and banded an Indigo Bunting in the dull plumage of a young female. The wing measured 63 mm. The outer two pairs of rectrices were somewhat abraded at the tips and were narrower and more pointed than the others, suggesting the theory that this was a bird of a late brood that still retained some of her juvenile plumage. She remained at my home station for ten days and was caught several times during that period. She appeared to be in good physical condition, gaining a gram in weight. She had weighed 14.9 grams at 3 P.M. on Dec. 6 and 15.9 grams at noon on Dec. 11. Her power of flight was not impaired for I repeatedly watched her fly into trees at some distance. She disappeared after Dec. 16 although the weather was still moderate. Searching for late Tennessee records I have found none for the Indigo Bunting after October. My latest banding date had been Oct. 15, 1936.—AMELIA R. LASKEY, Nashville.

SPRING RECORD OF A GOSHAWK AT NASHVILLE:—On the morning of March 19, 1941, as I was making a routine inspection of the Warner Parks Bluebird boxes, I noticed a hawk perching in a small tree at the edge of a thicket where sloping blue grass meadows border the wooded crests of the hills. At first glance I assumed it was a Cooper's Hawk but its larger size and gray breast immediately arrested my attention. As I watched it from the car, it suddenly dropped to the underbrush beneath its perch and I heard the distressed shriek of a Red-eyed Towhee. To my surprise the hawk returned with empty talons to a perch very close to a young cedar, assuming an attitude of watchful waiting, turning its head sideways to look downward but also watching me. It made some short flights among the saplings but returned to the cedar where it hopped from side to side around the dense evergreen, peering in as it searched for its quarry. All this time the shrill "t-wee" call of the Towhee issued from some hiding place in the tangle of vines on the ground or from the depths of the cedar which a few minutes earlier had saved its life.

I realized I was not only seeing my first living Goshawk but having the unique experience of watching its attempt at capturing a meal. With very deliberate and noiseless movements, I left the car, climbed an embankment, and walked across the meadow toward the hawk as it remained quietly perching, alert at my approach but unwilling to leave the quarry that seemed within its reach. From a distance of approximately 30 feet, I paused to examine the bird more closely. It would have been an excellent subject for a photograph as it posed in clear sunlight in unobstructed view but I was equipped only with 8x binoculars. All markings were very distinct. First I was attracted by the steady gaze of its bright reddish brown eyes fixed upon me, then the yellowish color of the cere, toes, and exposed portion of the tarsi. The under side of the long square-cut tail showed bands of a darker hue, three being visible below the under tail coverts. The underparts were entirely gray with indistinct barrings of a darker shade, more noticeable on the breast. The wings were darker than the breast; they were blue-gray in color with streaks of blackish. When it made short flights, bars of some dark color were noted on the light wing linings but the back showed no markings of any type. No trace of brown or reddish brown appeared in any part of its plumage.

After watching it for many minutes and having observed it from all angles, I tried, by waving my arm, to scare it to flight without disturbing the Towhee. Instead of flying, the Goshawk kept its perch still attempting to find a way to get to the hidden bird as long as its calls gave proof of its proximity. For ten minutes or more the siege lasted but only when the calls ceased, did my arm waving seem to have any effect for then the hawk flew low to settle at some distance on another sapling in the woods. During the entire observation period the hawk made no sound. I was unable to learn what happened to the Towhee for a later visit to the spot revealed no clew and no bird feathers on the ground.

This is the third record for the Goshawk in Tennessee and the first spring record. The other two were of birds shot near Nashville, an adult on Oct. 19, 1918 and an immature on Dec. 13, 1939 (*The Migrant*, Vol. 11, p. 1).—AMELIA R. LASKEY, Nashville.

AN EIGHT YEAR OLD MOCKINGBIRD:—In early spring of 1934 Mrs. K. P. Wright who lives adjacent to Ward Belmont School asked me to trap and deport a Mockingbird that had recently become a regular visitor at her window sill feeding shelf. She said it had been monopolizing the food supply to such an extent that she feared the Cardinals, Chickadees, and Titmice were being deprived of the suet and seeds provided for them. On Saturday afternoon, March 10, 1934, I set a banding trap baited with half an apple near the feeding place. The Mockingbird readily entrapped itself and was brought to my home three miles south. There it was released after aluminum band No. 34-200174 had been placed on the right tarsus and for sight identification, one of green celluloid on the left leg. The following Monday morning the bird was again at Mrs. Wright's feeding shelf, easily identified by the two bands. However its visits there ceased soon afterward and nothing was known of its whereabouts until nearly four year later.

On Jan. 26, 1938, when sub-freezing temperatures followed a snowstorm of the previous day, Miss Anne Ganier, then a student at Ward Belmont, found a double-banded, bedraggled Mockingbird lying on the campus driveway. She took it home where it was kept a day or two until it was able to fly. Its number 34-200174 identified it as my bird and it was released from the Ganier home which is about two miles southwest of the school.

In late April of 1941 while looking for Chimney Swift roosts, I was surprised to find a banded Mockingbird incubating a set of three eggs in a small boxwood shrub near the main drive of Ward Belmont campus. As I had never banded any of that species there, I was eager to know something of the history of this individual. Accordingly I began a campaign to trap her. Offerings of fruits and other foods were readily taken but she was very wary. She hopped all around and on top of the traps attempting to get the food but consistently refrained from entering. Early mornings, long before the students were astir, as well as evenings, I set traps and hopefully waited in the car at some distance from her feeding area. Her eggs hatched, the three young developed to the fledgling stage and left the nest before she finally yielded to the lure of raisins, apple, and corn bread in a top opening trap. She was caught May 8, 1941. My patience was indeed rewarded when I read her band number—34-200174. She no longer carried the green celluloid one. She is at least eight years old, a remarkable age for a bird living in a closely built residence section with its many hazards of cats, automobiles, etc. Her strong attachment for Ward Belmont campus is revealed in her return trips after being carried away twice from the home territory of her choice. It will be interesting to follow her career in future seasons.

To my knowledge there is only one record of an older Mockingbird. Mr. and Mrs. Harold Michener report one that had been trapped eight successive years at their banding station in Pasadena, California. On May 11, 1933, the last time it was caught, it was at least nine years old. (*The Condor*, 37, May-June 1935).—AMELIA R. LASKEY, Nashville.

## WITH OUR MEMBERS

New address of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Stevenson is Forest Home, Ithaca, New York. Henry, who has had an active and varied field background, is working on a Ph.D. in ornithology.

The address of Mrs. Sam H. (Sarah Ogilvie) Rogers is Sayre School, Lexington, Ky., until next June.

Mr. Ganier spent his vacation in Colorado, the first half of September, attending while there the annual meeting of the American Ornithologists Union. He presented a paper on the program entitled "Distribution of the Bald Eagle in the Lower Miss. Valley" and therein gave the location of more than thirty nesting pairs in this region. The meeting was a well attended and colorful one and was followed by field-days to the prairie sloughs east of Denver and, the following day, thru all the life zones up to the Alpine on top of Mt. Evans, 14,260 feet. Mr. Ganier spent his second week in the high Rockies, getting acquainted with the unusual birds of that region.

### NASHVILLE CHAPTER

The young men of the Nashville Chapter have had busy summers, most of them having been employed during the three vacation months. This necessarily curtailed their bird observation activities. However, since July 21 when Chimney Swift banding started this year, several of them found time to participate. This fall the Swifts in Nashville have scattered in numerous small flocks so that in the five bandings to date (Sept. 18) the total number handled has been small, 3,300. Of these, 20 per cent were already wearing bands.

William Simpson is now living in Knoxville where he held a vacation position of responsibility. He is a Junior at University of Tennesse this year, majoring in chemistry. William had become expert in Chimney Swift work in Nashville and is making great progress in banding the large flocks at the more difficult chimneys in Knoxville.——Arthur McMurray has returned to University of Tennessee for his senior year in a pre-med. course, majoring in zoology.——Conrad Jamison, fortunately, remains in Nashville as he is a sophomore at Peabody College. It is hard on Nashville to lose so many of the fine bird students. Besides taking a summer course of study, Conrad has utilized his artistic talent and has made many pen and ink drawings for a forthcoming article and a book in the botanical field. He has become the 'engineer' of the Swift banding project since William left. They both are expert on high chimney work.——J. B. (Jack) Calhoun has returned to Northwestern University for his third year where he has an assistantship in zoology and is finishing his residence work toward a Ph.D. degree. He is working on research problems of the life history of the meadow mouse. During the summer, in addition to his regular 'job', he built a highly complicated apparatus for electrical recordings in connection with this study.——Steve Lawrence is returning to University of Tennessee to continue his course of forestry and Francis Lawrence enters his senior year at Central High. Francis resumed operation this summer of his sub-banding station with excellent results. He has also become proficient in making bird skins and has started a collection, all made from birds that otherwise would have been wasted, such as highway casualties, etc.——Harold Seligman, a high school student, is a new recruit in bird work this year. He worked well this spring on the Bluebird project and this fall is doing good work with Swift banding. He has already formed the habit of taking notes on his observations.—A. R. L.

# THE MIGRANT

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## MEMPHIS CHAPTER

Wendell Whitemore receives his M.D. from the University of Tennessee this month. After November 10 his address will be care of John Gaston Hospital, Memphis.——Jim Vardaman is returning to the School of Forestry at the University of Michigan for his senior year. He spent the summer at their forestry camp in the Upper Peninsula.——Fred Fiedler, Jr. returns to the University of Wisconsin to complete his pre-med work.——Robert Hovis, Jr., who majored in chemistry at Yale, now goes with Procter and Gamble at Cincinnati.

John Pond is at 456 Montclair, Bethlehem, Pa. Graduating from Southwestern, he spent last year at the University of Georgia. John now has a teaching fellowship in mathematics at Lehigh University and is working on his Ph.D. He writes glowingly of a recent week-end trip to the coast and down to Cape May, famous bird migration area.—B.C.

## WILSON ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB MEETING

The annual meeting of the Wilson Ornithological Club, with which the T.O.S. is affiliated, will be held at the University of Illinois, Urbana, Nov. 21-23. It is hoped that a number of our members will plan to be present to enjoy the always excellent program. Dr. O. S. Pettengill is secretary; his address is Carleton College, Northfield, Minn.

## IN THE SERVICE

Lt. John H. Embury, Jr., a charter member of the Memphis chapter, reported to Fort Bragg for active duty. His address is 9th Rec. Tr., 9th Div., Fort Bragg, N. C.——Harold Elphingstone is with the 16th Material Squadron, 13th Air Base, Maxwell Field, Ala. Harold completed the local secondary civilian pilot training course but the eyes that could spot a Junco at a hundred yards failed him slightly in his examination for the Air Corps. Here's hoping he soon gets another chance at flying.——Frank Van Hoesen continues his membership from Camp Stewart, Ga., where his address is Med. Det., 70th C. A. (A. A.).——Lt. George A. Reed, a former Memphis Scout and member, is stationed at Ft. Stolsenburg, Philippine Islands. He is accompanied by Mrs. Reed.

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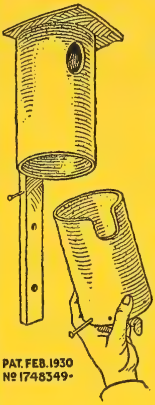

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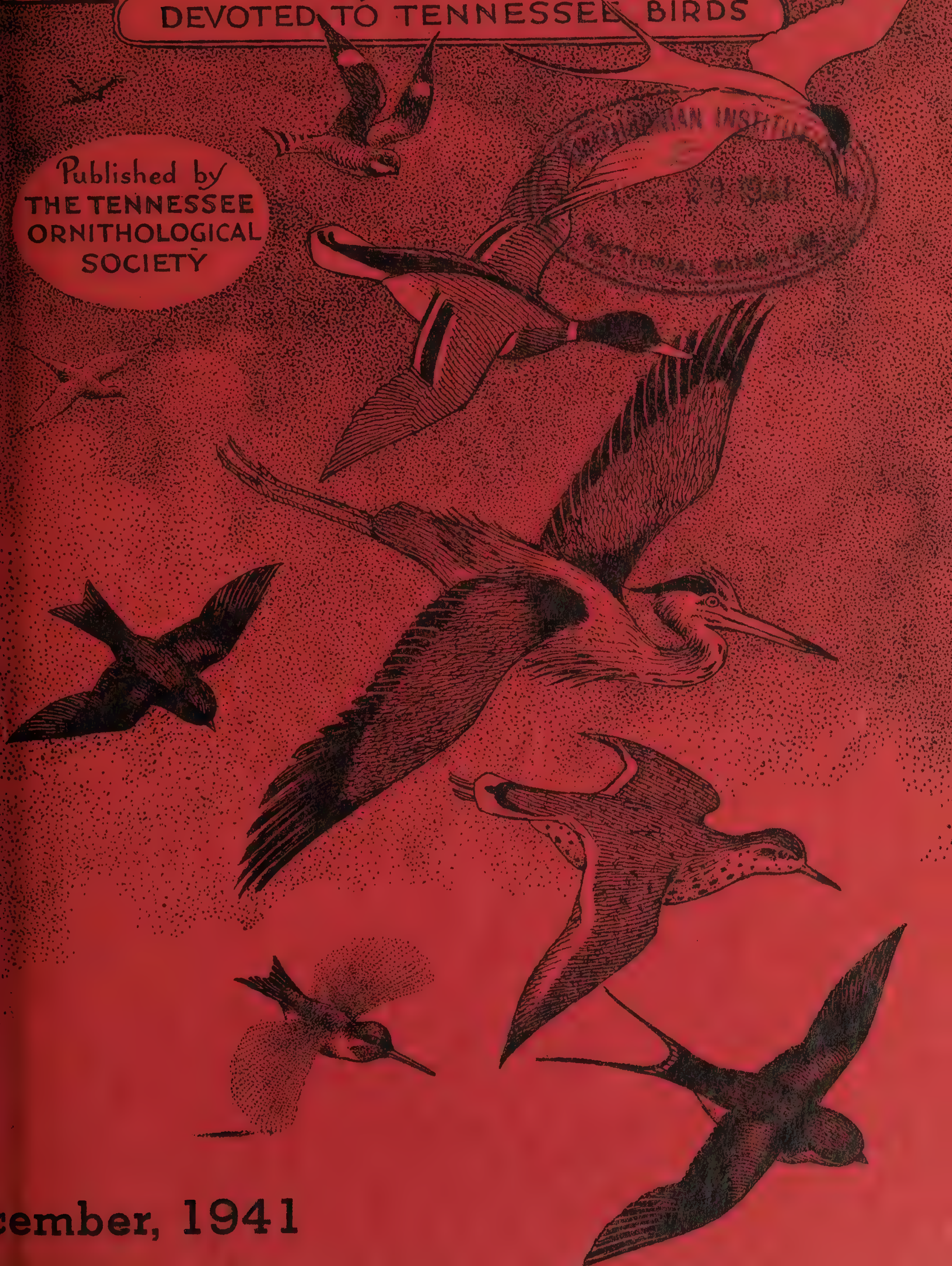

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# THE MIGRANT

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## AN INSTANCE OF MOCKINGBIRD BIGAMY

By Amelia R. Laskey

Since 1932 when I started to individualize all Mockingbirds around my home with colored bands for study purposes, several have lived for lengthy periods in our garden. Thus I have become intimately acquainted with them and their families as I have watched them from day to day. Outstanding among these, is one called "Abe" who arrived in September of 1936 and still occupies the front area of our grounds. His biography will make an interesting story but this narrative concerns one amazing interlude of several weeks during the spring of 1939 when Abe had two mates simultaneously—both incubating eggs in their nests about 80 yards apart.

Although there are instances recorded in the literature of several species, ordinarily monogamous, having two mates, it was surprising to me to find this may occur in a species where the female is inclined to resent the intrusion of another female in her territory. In the file of Mrs. Margaret M. Nice, which she kindly loaned me, there are references to published observations of a number of species, both European and American birds, with more than one mate. Instances of polygyny are recorded for the Oven-bird, English Sparrow, Tree Swallow, Robin, and Song Sparrow. Dr. Harry Hann, in his life history study of the Oven-bird also found an instance of polyandry. In her comprehensive study of the Song Sparrow, extending over several years, Mrs. Nice recorded four instances of bigamy, two of which she knows occurred when a female lost her own mate and was taken as an extra mate by the male occupying the adjoining territory.

My Mockingbird and his mate of 1938 had an unusually fruitful season that year with four successful nests fledging 12 young. All nests were located in a narrow strip of 9 by 36 yards on the front portion of our lot. "Ayr," as she is called from her band color combination, remained with "Abe" throughout the winter of 1938-1939, jointly occupying the same territory used during the summer and spending much time near our windows where raisins were placed for them. He occasionally flew at other birds that encroached on his territory and sometimes was assisted by his mate.

In 1939 Abe started his spring singing on February 4th and was soon joined in song by the two unmated males occupying the rear section of our lot. As the spring-like March days passed, Abe and his mate were much interested in nest sites, flying into evergreens on our place but also visiting those in the foundation planting at the front of the home of our neighbor across the road. Abe had completed a well made nest in our Norway

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spruce, the site of one of their 1938 nests but no eggs were laid in it. As the female had lost interest in that nest in late March, I investigated the shrubs they had been seen frequenting at my neighbors' and found a nest there with two eggs. That nest came to grief and another was built a few yards away in the same group of shrubs. This was a rather poorly constructed nest. The exact date of the laying of the second set of eggs is not known but it contained four eggs on April 26 and as they hatched on May 4, the first egg was probably laid April 19.

But, on April 19, I noticed an unbanded Mockingbird feeding unmolested on our front lawn (she may have been there earlier). That was peculiar as Abe had been very diligent in driving away others. Two days later, he and the new light colored, brown-tinted bird were together near our window. This bird flew at Abe in the manner of females of that species during the early stage of the mating, repulsing the advances of the mate. I could frequently hear little warning notes typical of those of the male guarding his mate. On April 23 I saw Abe gathering tiny rootlets such as Mockingbirds invariably use for nest lining. He flew into a deutzia bush in our shrub border just beyond the east end of our house. I investigated and found a nicely made nest apparently complete, 7 feet up in that shrub. A few minutes later, Ayr, (Abe's old mate) came flying to the west end of the house for raisins and as she returned to her nest across the road, she was accompanied by Abe. From them was heard the usual "conversation" of rasping "cha" notes that occurs between a mated pair.

I was mystified and spent a great deal of time watching the "triangle" for here was a strange situation indeed. Without the identifying colored bands I would never have been quite sure that Ayr had not acquired a new mate at my neighbor's.

The following day, April 24, Abe sang gayly from a rather high perch, gliding downward as he sang with some of the abandon of mate-calling time. This type of song is characteristic also of Mockingbirds during the early incubation periods. Later the males usually have a brood to feed and little time for idle singing.

April 25, the female Ayr was found in a banding trap, baited with raisins, set at the rear part of our lot—a place she ordinarily never frequented! Back there another pair was nesting. The new bird, now called "Blond" because her plumage was cleaner than the others, was seen several times in Abe's company as they both perched in the silver maple at the house. Although apple and raisins were near, she never was seen to eat any. She was never lured to a trap, therefore was not banded. Abe continued to eat generous portions but Ayr, much as she enjoyed raisins, did not come near the feeding shelf at the house. She made circuitous trips to the rear, entrapping herself there several times in her effort to get raisins. On the 28th after removing her from a rear trap and feeding her several raisins by hand, I released her on the front lawn for experimental purposes. As she flew across it toward her nest at my neighbor's, Blond appeared suddenly and pursued her. Abe, from the side lines, watched the procedure with no interference. I have noticed frequently that among Mockingbirds, Cardinals, etc. male drives male from territory and female drives female. Each is much more tolerant of an intruder of the opposite sex.

This same day (April 28) Blond was found on her nest in the deutzia laying her first egg. Abe sang exuberantly, tossing himself into the air from a tree top. On May 1st Mate No. 2 was incubating her set of four eggs and Abe had discontinued the loud singing, spending much of his time watching both nests from a roadside locust tree where he had a good view of both locations. If I visited Ayr's nest, he appeared there to watch, although the female herself fussed at me more than he. Immediately afterwards, as I visited Blond's nest, he followed protesting with scolding notes. He had one big fight with the male using the rear lot when the latter came within ten yards of Blond's shrub.

Ayr's eggs hatched on May 4th. I was unable to determine how much Abe contributed to the feeding of the young but I know he carried some raisins across. On May 7th, he was seen to hurriedly grab a raisin from the shelf and fly directly to the nest.

May 11th all was well wtih both nests; the four nestlings of Ayr were developing normally and Blond's four eggs were due to hatch on the 13th. May 12th I stayed away purposely from both.

May 13th Ayr was again on the front lawn, joining Abe in trees, shrubs, and on the clipped grass. Abe sang snatches of song. Both came to the house, and contrary to his usual custom, Abe allowed Ayr to feed first at the raisins. Both were rather assertive in flying at other birds.

I visited Blond's nest. Neither she nor her eggs were to be found. Her nest was still intact but had been robbed in the manner of snake predation. A visit to Ayr's nest revealed another catastrophe. The four week-old young had also disappeared.

Abe and Ayr resumed their habit of perching in the silver maple tree at the house as they waited for raisins. A new nest was started midway between the two that had just been robbed, from which three young were fledged on June 16th, and on July 21st, two young from their fourth nest in the cedar on our lawn which had been the site of two of their 1938 nests.

While it is impossible to explain how my male Mockingbird happened to acquire the extra mate, it apparently did not occur through a shortage of males. At the time of her arrival, a male had been singing his loud mate-calling songs 135 yards away. A few days before I had found her on the lawn, settled in Abe's territory, the latter had engaged in a fierce fight with an intruding male who spent two hours there in mate-calling song between fights and pursuits. The fate of this extra female was never learned. Not having captured her for banding, of course there was no way of identifying her if she appeared in the neighborhood later.

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NASHVILLE, December, 1941.

# A CROW'S NEST

By H. P. Ijams

To the best of my knowledge Crows have not nested on this place during the twenty-five years that we have lived here. This suited us very well as we did not believe that they make good neighbors for other birds that are trying to rear young.

This year I had a pretty good idea from a pair's actions that they were nesting in a pine grove about 300 yards from the house. It was not until May 25 that I had time to look for the nest. It was located in the top of a young pine and rather well concealed by the foliage. Since it was a beautiful Sunday afternoon, I decided to stretch out and see if the old birds were around. After a half hour of waiting I walked around the tree, looking up, and there was a Crow that had been perched on the edge of the nest and behind the trunk from me. I clapped my hands and rapped on the tree; as it did not fly I decided that it was an immature bird and possibly the last one to leave.

The following Saturday I had a Boy Scout to coon up the tree, and believe me, it was some job as it was one of our hottest days. The tree was tall but the diameter small, which made the climb possible. It was fully forty feet to the first branch. After getting up he lowered a cord for a bushel basket which subsequently held the nest very nicely. Later this cord was measured and showed the nest to be sixty-five feet from the ground.

To me the construction of this nest was a wonderful piece of workmanship. The foundation and framework were made of about 259 twigs from the thickness of a pencil to that of a match and from ten to sixteen inches in length. These twigs had evidently been snipped to size before being brought to the nest site as there was no trash on the ground. The stick frame was then lined with live moss, and on this moss was placed a layer of clay loam at least one and a half inch thick, which despite an abnormally dry May was still very moist. Over this loam was a mat of cedar bark. On this floor was the nest lining which was composed of finely shredded cedar bark, dry grass, and hog hair. This lining was examined very carefully in order to determine if the shells of any other eggs aside from those of the Crow could be discovered. I am very glad to report that the fourteen small pieces of shell found, judging from color and thickness, were fragments of the Crow's eggs that were too small to be carried away after the young were hatched.

The insulated dirt floor of this nest is my excuse for these notes. My search for the egg shells revealed it. There was so much of this dirt foundation and it was so protected to conserve moisture that it is surely common practice among Crows to build this type of nest. I suppose that most observers see the stick frame and the grass and bark lining and let it go at that. After becoming interested, I read all I could find on Crow nest construction but found nothing about mud or earth being used.

Consider 250 sticks, the moss, the dirt, the bark and all that lining! What a vast amount of labor it must have meant for those two birds—500 round trips at least!

No deductions could be made from the study of this nest to show that they are bad citizens. We had bad luck this year about nests being robbed and broken up, but since they were for the most part right at the house and since we caught a Jay and a cat in the act, we are not blaming the Crows.—KNOXVILLE, November, 1941.

# LECONTE'S SPARROW TRAGEDIES

BY BEN B. COFFEY, JR.

One of our first introductions to the Leconte's Sparrow proved tragic to the individual so marked. On the 1939 Moon Lake (Miss.) Christmas Census, December 31, I stopped the car to allow Burdick, Mason, and party to rush across a small but likely field for kicking-up Savannah Sparrows and possibly other species. The field was too grassy for Horned Larks but the grass was relatively short, although frequently matted in clumps. Several Savannah Sparrows took flight but when Austin yelled "Leconte's" my role changed from moral encouragement to active participation. The bird was flushed several times but was hard to see in detail altho the manner of flight became more recognizable with each instance and a quick glimpse of the yellowish buff over the eye and the brown nape was possible once or twice. Finally it deserted its protective habitat for the open cotton rows nearby. As we hurried over to get a good view of it among the old cotton stalks, it again rose. But, unfortunately for the hapless sparrow, a Loggerhead Shrike had appeared on the scene. The killer dropped on it before our startled eyes and then began a fantastic chase. Our waving of arms and yelling as we ran finally caused the Shrike to drop its victim as it left for a roadside wire. As we retraced the muddy rows Burdick found the Leconte's, dead. Subsequently he made a study skin of it.

At least three were found in this particular field and constituted my first personal record of this sparrow. Because of the secretive habits of this species and the type of habitat favored we thought that, normally, it is not often molested by predators. However, W. W. Cooke in his "Report on Bird Migration in the Mississippi Valley" (1888) states that a Leconte's Sparrow which had been impaled by a Shrike, was found February 28, 1885, near Fayetteville, Ark.

On January 7, 1940, about a week later, we found a few Leconte's Sparrows in a small grassy plot north of the Big Ditch Canal and just west of Highway 51, near Millington. On the 14th we returned to this field with Albert F. Ganier and at once kicked-up a Leconte's Sparrow for our visitor. In darted a Shrike and another chase was on. But with two barbed-wire fences to go over, Austin and I were badly outdistanced and couldn't even recover the corpus delicti. Now, when we seek to record Leconte's Sparrow, we search for Shrikes and do our chasing beforehand.
MEMPHIS, December, 1941.

oOo

MEMPHIS:—On Sept. 14 we banded 3,109 Swifts at Linden and Wagner and are now watching for other flocks. About 150 returns were taken. Of interest was 38-85917, banded here Sept. 21, 1938, and also taken Oct. 12, 1939, by Brasher C. Bacon at Madisonville, Ky.—BEN COFFEY.

# BROWN THRASHER DEFENSE OF THE NEST

By Amelia R. Laskey

The most vivid impression of the finding of my first Brown Thrasher nest is the memory of how I jumped at the vehemence of a blow on the top of my head when one of the parents discovered me leaning above the nest. Since then I have found other individuals that have shown remarkable fearlessness in defense of eggs or young.

The banding of Thrasher nestlings is usually a problem because the majority of parents start a wild clamor of pitiful squeals and wails of distress as if they were suffering terrible physical agony. If the young have already developed to near the fledging stage when found, I do not attempt to band them for at the racket of the parents, large nestlings will not settle in the nest but scramble away prematurely. Parent birds also keep such close watch that it is almost impossible to find a nest unguarded long enough to get the young banded before a parent returns.

Last summer when banding nestlings in our garden, I did not know the parents were near until, with the swiftness of an arrow, I was struck on the temple so forcibly that the beak of the bird left a bleeding cut.

The most daring one of all was an individual encountered at one of the landscaped entrances of Percy Warner Park during two successive years. This bird did not make surprise attacks on one's head or shoulders. It concentrated on fighting vigorously the hands, that, according to its instinctive interpretation, were endangering the young. The price of placing bands on its nestlings was scratched and bleeding fingers. This bird darted to the nest rim or onto one's hands to jab continuously, hopping a few inches away, only to return and repeat the attack. In 1940 a friendly park gardener who wished to assist had drops of blood oozing from the back of his hand before he finished replacing the young in the nest for me.

In 1941 this pugnacious bird was again found nesting and recognized by its bold approach. At one nest 11 feet up in a cedar tree it attacked me so consistently as I held a mirror over the nest that I caught it by the foot but released it immediately. That capture had no effect in curbing its recklessness. At a later nest, only 4 feet up in a large arborvitae, it continued to display utter disregard for danger to itself in its attack on my hand. I again caught it; this time with both hands and when released, it wore a shiny aluminum band on its right tarsus. Apparently it had learned a lesson, for at three later visits, it allowed me to peep into the shrub without attacking. It merely scolded from perches several feet away.

Nashville, December, 1941.

## LOOSE BANDS

KNOXVILLE:—Sparked by Bill Simpson who carried his Swift banding habits with him to the University of Tennessee, a total of almost 6,000 Chimney Swifts were banded, Aug. 27, Sept. 1, and Sept. 2. About 400 birds from last year were retaken.—W. M. Walker.

An adult Great Horned Owl was banded and released near Bordeau on March 21, 1941, by Albert J. Marsh of the Department of Conservation. The bird had been caught in a trap near Ashland City several days before.

# THE SEASON

MEMPHIS AREA:—Fall migration continued late this year at Memphis and there are a few interesting records. On Sept. 11 the following warblers were seen in Overton Park — Wilson's, 2; Yellow, 2; Chestnut-sided, 3; and Blue-winged, 2. Two Golden-winged Warblers were seen in the park on Sept. 12, by Welch and the writer.——On a visit to Mud Lake, Sept. 14, we recorded an Osprey, 6 Stilt Sandpipers, 100 Least, 85 Semipalmated, and 15 Western Sandpipers, and 4 Greater Yellow-legs. The shorebirds at this time were very tame and allowed us to approach very close. Sept. 20 found us again at Mud Lake and we recorded 29 Double-crested Cormorants, 4 Stilt Sandpipers, 1 Bald Eagle, 15 Cliff Swallows, and 1 Golden-winged Warbler. I recorded 2 Philadelphia Vireos in Overton Park on Sept. 26. Smith and I found them again on Sept. 27 along with 1 Wilson's Warbler, 10 Bay-breasted Warblers, 1 N. Water-thrush, and 1 immature Red-tailed Hawk. A Sharp-shinned Hawk and a House Wren were seen at Payne Ave. and Wolf River on Oct. 4. Our next visit to Mud Lake was made on Oct. 5 when we found the lake dried-up and 51 White Pelicans soaring overhead. Our last visit to the lake was on Oct. 11 when we recorded 38 White Pelicans, 4 American Egrets, 1 Short-billed Marsh Wren, 1 adult and 1 immature Bald Eagle. One Rose-breasted Grosbeak and 1 Wilson's Warbler were seen in Overton Park on Oct. 8 and a Red-breasted Nuthatch was seen there on Oct. 17. Two Orange-crowned Warblers were seen there on Oct. 25 and again on the 28th. The first White-throated Sparrows were seen on Oct. 10. Some late departures are: Chestnut-sided Warbler on Oct. 21 and Bay-breasted, Blackburnian, and Black-throated Green Warblers, Oct. 28. The Fall field trip was held on Nov. 3 at Shelby Forest. Not as many birds were recorded as usual; a few hawks and a flock of 13 Cormorants were the only birds seen passing over. Two Phoebes and a Pied-billed Grebe were seen at Piersol Lake. Tree Swallows totaled 150. One evening about Oct. 29 Dr. C. E. Moore recorded two Pigeon Hawks on the campus of Memphis State College. They were seen to be continuously molesting the pigeons that reside on the campus. Two Sparrow Hawks regularly stay around the College and Dr. Moore says that even though this was unusual behaviour he assumed that the disturbers were the Sparrow Hawks, until the two species appeared together. The markings of the Pigeon Hawks were carefully noted.—ROBERT TUCKER, Memphis.

NASHVILLE AREA:—The annual Fall Field Day of the Nashville Chapter was held on Oct. 26 at Marrowbone Lake, 12 miles northwest of the city. The attendance included a number of visiting members from Knoxville and other points. Fifty-five species of birds were listed, the small number being attributed to the severe drouth that had prevailed. On the new 86-acre lake were seen: Black Duck, 3; Mallard, 10; Baldpate, 1; Wood Duck, 5; Cormorant, 1; and Coot, 4. During the day a flock of geese flew over, consisting of 28 Snow Geese and 50 Blue Geese. Several flocks of these geese were reported during the week preceding.——Dr. W. R. Spofford, chapter president, has been meeting with members for early Sunday morning observations at Radnor Lake and among the water birds seen have been Horned and Pied-billed Grebes, Lesser Yellow-legs, and Osprey on Oct. 19; on Nov. 16, 2 Wilson's Snipes; on Nov. 23, 2 Hooded Mergansers and on the 27th, 3 immature Common Loons. A small, mixed flock of ducks was also present on each of these dates. The lake is lower than ever known before.——Dr. Spofford has a new Peregrine Falcon (Duck Hawk), a young female captured in the East during migration. He flies the bird to pigeons on Saturday and Sunday afternoons, over the Warner Park Steeplechase grounds and many of our members have been enjoying this interesting exhibition of falconry. While flying the falcon on Nov. 23 a Pigeon Hawk—a rare visitor—circled briefly overhead and was readily identified. Conrad Jamison has an immature Red-tailed Hawk, trapped a month ago, and which has now become quite tame. He hopes to fly this bird later, as one would a falcon.——Mrs. F. C. Laskey reports that during the warm damp weather, the last week in November, Bluebirds were warbling in her yard and investigating nest boxes. She also reports a few Robins regularly although they are usually absent through November and early December. Both she and Dr. Mayfield report them singing through the warm weather around Dec. 1. Dr. Mayfield reported a number of flocks of Robins, seen in Cedars of Lebanon State Park, on Nov. 16. Also that he had seen more than the usual number of Hermit Thrushes. A late Catbird has been staying about the feeding station of Francis Lawrence on Woodlawn Drive. The bird was seen regularly up to Nov. 9 and did not seem injured in any way.——Four Olive-sided Flycatchers were seen by the writer of these notes on August 16 and 17 and one collected. These were the first recorded in several years and as usual they were on the tops of dead trees in woodlands. A Red-breasted Nuthatch, a rare fall visitor, was observed by the writer in his yard on Oct. 8. A flock of 30 Killdeer were found at Radnor Lake on Dec. 1; in view of their recent scarcity this is an unusual number. During the past two winters several hundred Black Vultures have occupied a roost in Warner Park but this season they have moved to an unknown location. There were no Blackbird-Starling roosts in or about the city during November. The writer was confined to the hospital during most of the fall migration so is able to contribute but little to these seasonal notes—ALBERT F. GANIER, Nashville.

KNOXVILLE AREA:—The fall season was a rather dry one and conditions were not ideal for bird observations. Warblers came thru in small numbers over a period of six weeks to two months but there were no distinct migration waves that came to my attention. Because of the dry weather and the resultant low water in the streams, ponds, and lakes of the region one might have expected to find more than the usual number of shorebirds. However, just the opposite proved to be the true condition.——Trips to Cove Creek State Park (Caryville Lake) on Sept. 7 and Oct. 19, to Lake Andrew Jackson on Oct. 30 and Nov. 11, and to Carleton Lake. Nov. 16,—all yielded poor finds in waterbirds. The combined list follows: Blue-winged Teal, 14 on Sept. 7 and 1 on Nov. 16; Green-winged Teal, 2, Oct. 30. On Oct. 19 we found 2 Double-crested Cormorants, 3 Mallards, 22 Black Ducks and a Ruddy Duck. Coots which are usually present in flocks of 30 or more have not yet appeared except as singles on Oct. 19 and Nov. 16. The Pied-billed Grebe, tho, was readily found thruout the fall. Of shorebirds 4 L. Yellowlegs remained at Lake Andrew Jackson as late as Oct. 30. No Spotted Sandpipers were seen and the Solitary recorded only twice.——When we were at Caryville Lake on Sept. 7 we had a very delightful experience. Jewelweed was in full bloom along the creek at the upper end of the lake and we estimated there were 25 Hummingbirds along a hundred-yard strip of shore. Once 5 were in sight at the same time. Some of the highlights of the Chapter's Nov. 16 field trip to Carleton Lake included the Red-wing, Rusty Blackbird, Horned Lark, Pipit, and Brown Thrasher.——In either 1940 or 1941 a drainage ditch was dug near Lake Andrew Jackson and the blasting of rock evidently produced a slow leak in the lake-bed. The water level dropped some ten or more feet during the summer of 1940 and now the lake is almost dry. At one of the small ponds in the lake-bed 6 Great Blue Herons were feeding on Oct. 30. Nearby in a dead tree 11 Black and 2 Turkey Vultures were perched. The water in the pond was very muddy altho the lake was clear. Floating on the pond water were 3 dead fish, the largest not over 9 inches in length. Other fish could be seen struggling in the shallow water. Was it a coincidence the Vultures were all in this particular tree? They could have been using it as a sunning perch, or they could have been attracted by the strong fishy odor that was readily noticeable in the immediate vicinity. However, I saw no evidence that would indicate the Vultures had been eating the dead fish. On Nov. 11 I again went there to see if the 6 Great Blues were still there because prior to Oct. 30 I had never seen more than 3 at the lake at one time. Instead of 6 there were 10, one of which was about two-thirds as large as the others. The lake level had fallen about 6 inches since Oct. 30 and 2 more ponds had been formed by the receding waters. The pond that was so very muddy a few days before was now clear and there was no sign of fish or minnows; however, the soft mud forced me to limit my observations to 4 or 5 points where rocks or fallen limbs afforded a means of close approach. At one of the recently formed pools the muddy water indicated the Herons had been feeding there only a few moments before. At the other end of the pool the water was relatively clear and here I saw 2 'schools' of minnows and another group of about 50 fish, some 8 or 10 inches long. The larger fish never came near the surface but the fingerlings were plainly visible as they circled in a compact group or remained lazily feeding some distance away. Even the poorest of heron "fishermen" should have been able to live sumptuously for several days on the doomed fish that I saw in that small pool.—W. M. WALKER, JR., Knoxville.

# THE ROUND TABLE

BARN OWL AT CHATTANOOGA:—In view of the few records of this owl from East Tennessee, mention is here made of the following occurrence. *The Chattanooga Free Press* of August 7, 1941, published a picture of one of these birds that was readily identifiable. It stated that the bird had been captured the night before on the Shallowford Road and that it was being added to the Warner Park Zoo in that city.—A. F. GANIER, Nashville.

A DAY AT REELFOOT LAKE:—Arriving at Walnut Log in the late afternoon of May 24, 1941, a quick trip was made into Otter Basin. No signs of a heronry were seen or heard at this location, but the visit lasted only fifteen minutes and no extensive survey was made. One nest of the Prothonotary Warbler was seen, and another nest (warbler sp.) was found in a bush, 5 feet above water level.——Between five and seven o'clock the next morning, casual observations were made from the boardwalk at the Biological Station. A pair of adult Bald Eagles were seen about a mile to the west across Blue Basin. Their attention was focused on a small area of open water surrounded by stumps. Flying low in discrete circles, they made repeated stoops into the water, so hard that the water could be seen splashing high with each stoop. The activity was continuing at the end of a 15-minute period when observation ceased. An hour later both birds were seen perched nearby on tall stumps. I am not prepared to state that the birds were fishing. More probably they were attempting to capture a cormorant or heron wounded by a bait-hunting fisherman. (Near Walnut Log I was astonished to see a fisherman or guide carrying fully a dozen birds by their long thin necks. Since they were carefully skinned and without heads or feet, further identification was impossible. I was told that they were for fish bait.)——From the boardwalk an Osprey was also seen a mile to the south, hovering and diving in characteristic fashion. Four Florida Gallinules, (two of them accompanying seven young), a few Ward's Herons, Black-crowned Night Herons, Cormorants, Anhingas, and many Am. Egrets were seen; also a Least Bittern. A Red-shouldered Hawk was frequently heard close by.——"Big Cranetown" was visited from one to two P.M. after a tedious search with painstaking attention to compass and map. The colony was not nearly so large as I had anticipated. I estimated 200 to 300 nests. Occupied nests were seen of Cormorant, American Egret, Ward's Heron, and Black-crowned Night Heron. Anhingas were seen frequently but no nests were identified. Red-shouldered Hawk (with a small snake), Bronzed Grackle, and Prothonotary Warbler were seen in the tree-top nesting zone. The latter was hopping in and out among the outer fringe of the nests of Egrets and Cormorants. Black Vultures and Anhingas circled overhead. Young birds were seen in many of the nests. There was a great hubbub of incoming and outgoing birds. Incoming Egrets, alighting near Cormorant nests, were chased away. Young Cormorants begged food of Egrets alighting nearby and young Ward's Herons begged of a Cormorant. No response to this mendication was observed.—WALTER R. SPOFFORD, Nashville.

INDIGO BUNTING SINGS AT NIGHT:—On the evening of June 20, 1941, Mr. Dick Smith and the writer were hunting reptile and amphibian specimens along a creek bottom near Bert Adams Scout Camp, Vinings (Cobb County), Georgia. There was a hearty chorus of Southern toads, cricket frogs, and other batrachians, roundabout. When we reached a quieter place along the stream, I was startled to hear not far away one clear song of the Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*) at 11:45 P.M. This species is an abundant breeder in the region and the male's song is very familiar and unmistakable. A response of several notes of the Yellow-breasted Chat, not uncommonly heard at night, followed the Bunting's song. The weather was cloudy and there was no moonlight.——This note is prompted as a supplement to the article on whisper songs and night-singing by Mrs. F. C. Laskey (*The Migrant*, 6: pp. 1-2, 1935).—ROBERT NORRIS, Tifton, Ga.

NOTES FROM MT. PLEASANT:—The Porter-Walker Hardware Company, in Columbia have a number of mounted birds and animals on display, and add to their collection from time to time. Last summer when in their store, I noticed a very dark colored hawk, about the size of a Red-tailed, which they said had been shot in the winter of 1940-41 on the Pulaski Pike, near Columbia, by a farmer who thought it was after some young lambs, which were in his field at the time. This hawk is evidently a Harlan's Hawk, a melanistic race of the Red-tailed, ranging from Alaska to the lower Mississippi valley.——In the store referred to is also a fine specimen of Golden Eagle, an immature bird, and I think from its size, a male, which was shot at Kettle Mills, about 20 miles from Columbia, in 1939. They also had an adult male Golden Eagle, which was shot near Columbia many years ago, but disposed of this year because of its poor condition.——A pair of Cooper's Hawks nested on my place this year, the nest being placed in a small hackberry tree, in a line of small timber along a spring branch.——For some reason, probably because an earlier nest had been destroyed, they only hatched one young bird. The nesting was very late, as the young one, a female, did not leave the nest until the first week in August, about five or six weeks later than usual. As there was only one nestling, it received much more food than if there had been three or four as usual, and grew to a much larger size than any Cooper's Hawk I ever saw, seeming to be as big as a male goshawk. It certainly had all it could eat, for I saw one of the old birds bring it what seemed to be the plucked carcass of a bird about the size of a Robin, and the young bird, after giving a feeble pull or two at its game, lay down in the nest again. This young hawk remained on my place at least a month after leaving the nest, and I could always tell if it was about by the whistling call which young Cooper's Hawks give. I have kept a few of this species in my time and have never heard one whistle after it was a couple of months old. This young hawk was not very wild, and seemed a very swift flyer. One day I saw it dart out from a line of small timber and chase a Crow that was flying by about a hundred yards away. It caught the Crow easily and hit it hard, making it squawk loudly, but did not hold, and after chasing it to the next line of trees let it go. I regret somewhat that I did not take this hawk to train, but was trying to train a Sharp-shinned at the time, and did not feel equal to the task of training two short-winged hawks at once. This is the only time I have ever seen a Cooper's attack a Crow, though I have noted Crows give them a wide berth several times when they flew past.——While there is an unusually heavy crop of hackberries this year, I have not noted any Robins over a half dozen times since the first of October, and then only one at a time. Last year, their absence was understandable, as there were no hackberries at all, and very little food of any kind. In the winter of 1939-40 there were plenty of hackberries, and in spite of the cold weather, there were many Robins here all winter, and into the early spring. Usually there are thousands of Robins on the east fork of Bigby Creek near here all during the fall, and many remain for the winter, but last year and this, they have been almost entirely absent.—DAN R. GRAY, Mt. Pleasant.

SWIFTS ROOSTING IN HOLLOW TREE:—The present almost invariable habit of Chimney Swifts of roosting in large chimneys has often caused us to wonder where these birds spent the night in early days before such chimneys became available. Recently, while gleaning through an old file of the Clarksville, Tenn., *Leaf-Chronicle*, I came across the following item in that paper, dated June 12, 1875. "Chimney Swallows: A large hollow sycamore tree was cut down last month near the Rogers and Norris Mill on Yellow Creek, out of which Tom Rogers said they killed 506 of these birds and Tom Ellis, who was present, said 'about a million got away'." Aside from the interesting record of these birds still roosting in trees at that date, is the tone of the account which indicates that little or no thought was being given at that time to the conservation and protection of bird life.—S. A. WEAKLEY, Nashville, Tenn.

NOTE: The above location is about 20 miles southwest of Clarksville. Presumably the tree was felled on a chilly morning in early May and the birds were therefore loathe to leave while felling was in progress. The "million" estimate was of course an exaggeration; several thousand, however, would have been quite possible. Audubon, in his "Birds of America," records a large hollow sycamore tree which grew near Louisville, Ky., which was regularly used each year by Swifts as a roosting refuge. He stated, however, that at that time—1808—most Swifts had already adopted chimneys in preference to hollow trees—A. F. GANIER.

BLUEBIRD HOUSING CAMPAIGN:—A group of Memphis Boy Scouts and the writer built and placed some 130 bird boxes in DeSoto County, Miss., placing 100 on March 8th, 1941 and 30 on March 19, 1941. The placing was done with the aid of an Army Quadrangle Map. The 130 boxes were divided into 21 groups or stations, with a student of Eudora School as an observer for each station of from four to twelve boxes. Each box was numbered and registered with a Post Card and return address. First station reported occupancy March 16, 17, 18 and 28. Nine more stations reported by April 30; the remaining seven by May 28. 78 boxes had one setting, 17 boxes two settings, and two boxes had three for a total of 103 sets of birds. Seven boxes were destroyed by domestic animals and two used by Carolina Wrens. With these results in mind and with the aid of Boy Scouts and school children, I hope to multiply this score in 1942.—RALPH B. HUMPHRIES, Memphis.

RECORDS OF THE WILSON'S WARBLER AT MEMPHIS:—Wilson's Warbler (*Wilsonia pusilla pusilla*) is a rare spring and fall transient here.

Joe Mason, Jr. observed this warbler on his farm east of Memphis on May 12, 1939. The first bird of this species I saw was a male which was shot and shown to me on Aug. 29, 1939. The following day I went as directed to the spot where the first bird was shot and nearby found three more—two males and a female. An immature male bird was seen by Wallace and Burdick at Mud Lake on Sept. 3, 1939. Three days later they recorded 6 Wilson's at the same place; only two were adult birds.—The following May 6 (1940) a male bird was seen in Overton Park by the writer. In the fall of the same year two were seen at Galloway Park by Burdick on Aug. 19. In Overton Park I saw two male Wilson's on Sept. 14 and 15 while on Sept. 17 a female was seen.——On May 6 of this year (1941) I saw a male Wilson's Warbler in Overton Park. In Nonconnah bottoms, east of Memphis, four birds were seen by Burdick, et al, on May 10. At Lakeview on the Memphis spring field day, May 11, a male bird was seen in the Tennessee area by Burdick, Mason, Smith, Welch and the writer. On May 17 in Overton Park I recorded six of these warblers—four males and two females. The males were heard often singing. On May 24, a very late date, a male Wilson's was heard and seen in Overton Park.—The Wilson's Warbler prefers low bushes and trees at the edge of woods but many times is found in the very center of deep woods.—ROBERT TUCKER, Memphis.

## BREWSTER'S WARBLER AT MEMPHIS

On Aug. 30, 1941, in Overton Park, Demett Smith and I were busily observing the individuals in a large flock of warblers, which included many Blue-winged Warblers, when a small warbler flew out of a tree and perched on a vine not 20 feet away. In good light we made out the markings of a Brewster's Warbler (*Vermivora leucobronchialis*), and studied them for a while at ease. This hybrid between the Blue-winged Warbler and the Golden-winged Warbler had the golden crown patch and yellow wing bars of the Golden-winged and the narrow black eye-stripe of the Blue-winged. It was very tame and allowed us to approach it closely and at all times stayed with the Blue-wingeds. This is first record for this area.—ROBERT TUCKER, Memphis.

WESTERN SWAMP SPARROW AND WESTERN OLIVE-BACKED THRUSH ADDED TO THE TENN. LIST:—In the writer's review of Dr. Wetmore's paper, "Notes on the birds of Tennessee" (*Migrant*, 1940:29) a list of subspecies added by him to our State list, is given. Further examination of his Tennessee specimens later resulted in finding among them the following two recently described subspecies.

Western Olive-backed Thrush (*Hylocichla ustulata almae*); Dr. Wetmore states (*Auk*, 1939:477) that 4 of his 7 Tennessee specimens are referable to this western race. These comprise 3 taken near Reelfoot Lake on April 27, 28 and May 1, and one near Waynesboro on May 11, 1937. The remaining three, taken on top of Roan Mountain Sept. 20 and 22, I am advised by him, have been verified as the eastern race (*H. u. swainsoni*), thus retaining this form on our State list.

Western Swamp Sparrow (*Melospiza georgiana ericrypta*); In his "Notes on the birds of Kentucky" (Proc. U.S.N.M., 88:573), Dr. Wetmore refers 7 of his 13 Tenn. specimens to this form. They were collected as follows: two, 30 miles east of Memphis on April 10 and 16; vicinity of Reelfoot Lake Oct. 16 and 23; Dover, Oct. 26; 10 miles east of Pulaski, Nov. 4, 1937, and an old specimen from Rockwood taken March 19, 1885. The other 6 specimens were referred to the eastern race (*M. g. georgiana*) and these were collected; 30 miles east of Memphis on April 10; Reelfoot Lake, Oct. 12; near Pulaski, Nov. 4, 1937; and 3 from Rockwood, March 19, 20, and 23, 1885.

In a series of 10 skins, sent to Dr. Wetmore and collected by the writer within 20 miles of Nashville, the following 6 were referred by him to the western race: Jan. 1, 1938, Mar. 31, 1940, April 17, 1937, April 26, 1941, and April 29, 1916. The remaining 4 were identified as the eastern form and were collected Feb. 2, 1941, Feb. 4, 1917, April 17, 1937, and Oct. 10, 1917.

The distinguishing features of the two forms mentioned are discussed in the Kentucky publication above referred to. Briefly stated, the western form of the Swamp Sparrow is slightly darker in color.—ALBERT F. GANIER,

## SANCTUARY SUGGESTIONS

In planting to attract birds I would advocate native trees and shrubs chiefly because they are more hardy. Hackberry I think is the most useful tree one can have for birds because nearly all species like it and because the fruit hang on all winter. Red cedar is excellent for cover as well as for fruit; the big objection is that fruits cannot be counted on. Black gum and wild cherry are consistent fruit producers, greatly relished by many species of birds. In this class too come dogwood, elderberry, and service berry. Persimmon, particularly the type on which the fruits are not ready until mid-winter, is valuable for food at that scant season; also chinaberry, where it will grow along our southern borders, the fruit being used by Robins in late winter.

Of vines, the wild grapes are useful in the fall. Poison ivy should be encouraged in woodlands if Myrtle Warblers are desired for winter guests. Hercules Club (aralia) bears heavily in small berries and consumes but little ground space. Among the shrubs the staghorn sumac is ornamental and carries its plentiful fruit thru the winter. Russian olive (eleagnus) is much favored by fruit-eating birds. Privet (Amoor River) is a heavy fruiting shrub holding its berries thru the winter but is not much favored by birds until late winter when other foods have become scarce.

Grohoma, a sorghum-like plant, and cow peas are good field plants to sustain Bob-whites and Doves in winter. Sunflowers are also relished by finches and native sparrows in fall and winter. Ragweed grows in river bottoms and along ditches, carry seeds that are much relished by Rose-breasted Grosbeaks in the fall and later on by Cardinals. A valuable mid-summer fruiting plant that will return year after year from established roots, is the pokeberry, its fruits being especially favored by Mockingbirds, Catbirds, and Bluebirds during the summer months.—A. F. GANIER, Nashville.

## NECROLOGY

Thomas H. Malone, died at his home in Bellemeade, Nashville, Tenn., on March 21, 1941, aged 69 years. Judge Malone was a Special Justice of the Supreme Court of Tennessee, in 1917 and again in 1923. He had been a member since 1935 and rendered signal service to the Society in assisting with its incorporation a few years ago.

William P. Morrison, died at his home in Dickson, Tenn., August 16, 1941, aged 72 years. Mr. Morrison, for many years a teacher, was engaged in the insurance business and was the leading spirit in the organization of our Dickson Chapter.

Emilie Yunker, December 11, 1940. Life-long resident of Louisville, Ky. with 56 years of service in Louisville public schools. Her interest in gardens and the out-of-doors created for her the post of Supervisor of School Gardens and led to World War service in developing community gardens thruout Kentucky. She was an active member of many organizations including the K.O.S., the T.O.S., and Wilson Club, contributing inspiration and leadership. Her love of trees, iris, and roses was expressed by giving and encouraging their planting. (Abstracted from a two-page tribute in *The Kentucky Warbler*, Winter, 1941).

# THE MIGRANT

A QUARTERLY JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE STUDY OF TENNESSEE BIRDS
PUBLISHED BY THE TENNESSEE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
Supported by membership dues of $1 per year. Please remit to
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**Ben B. Coffey, Jr., Editor, 672 N. Belvedere, Memphis**
Regional Editors: Albert F. Ganier, Nashville; W. M. Walker, Knoxville;
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*The Migrant* copy basket and the T.O.S. treasury are almost exhausted (and so's your editor). Seriously, it is our policy to give you all we can but, naturally no more. Thus the end of one year finds us ready to plan a fresh start for a new volume. Your secretary-treasurer volunteers to receive your collective dollars for printing and mailing costs and your editor volunteers to receive your notes of field trips, experiences, and special studies and present them for sharing with all our membership. Please accept this as a request for 1942 dues now, for census lists by January 15 and other copy by February 25. Your prompt cooperation will be appreciated and will save both of us time and expense. Don't overlook the suitability of a membership as a Christmas gift.——Copy has been edited and marked and as we take it to the printers, very serious events have occurred. No nation will find a more loyal group than those with an inherent love of their country's natural scene. We cannot foresee what effect 'all-out' conditions will have on our little journal but it is safe to say that it will carry on, perhaps in an abbreviated form or combined numbers. Printing costs have increased the last fifteen months. Your prompt cooperation with above requests *now* will help your officers to chart a course.

We are glad to report that Albert F. Ganier recovered sufficiently to attend the Wilson Club meeting, Thanksgiving. Within another month or two we hope he will be fully able to undertake any desired field activity.

The present address of Alfred Clebsch, Jr., is 922 14th Street, Golden, Colorado.

NASHVILLE CHAPTER:—Meeting dates, 8 P.M., Social-Religious Building, Peabody College: Jan. 12 and 26, Feb. 9 and 23, Mar. 9 and 23, April 13 and 27, May 11 and 25, June 9 and 23. Christmas Census is scheduled for Dec. 21.

MEMPHIS CHAPTER:—Newly elected and re-elected officers are; Lawrence Kent, pres.; Mrs. M. L. Torti, vice-pres. and program chmn.; Mrs. John H. Embury, Jr., treas.; and Robt. Tucker, sec. Roosevelt and LaGuardia have nothing on some of our faithful leaders. The Christmas Census is set for Dec. 21 and the Moon Lake Census for Dec. 28. Meetings are held every other Monday at the Memphis Museum (Pink Palace).

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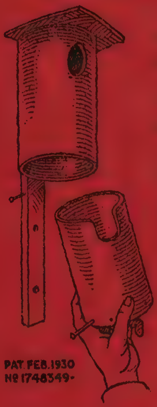

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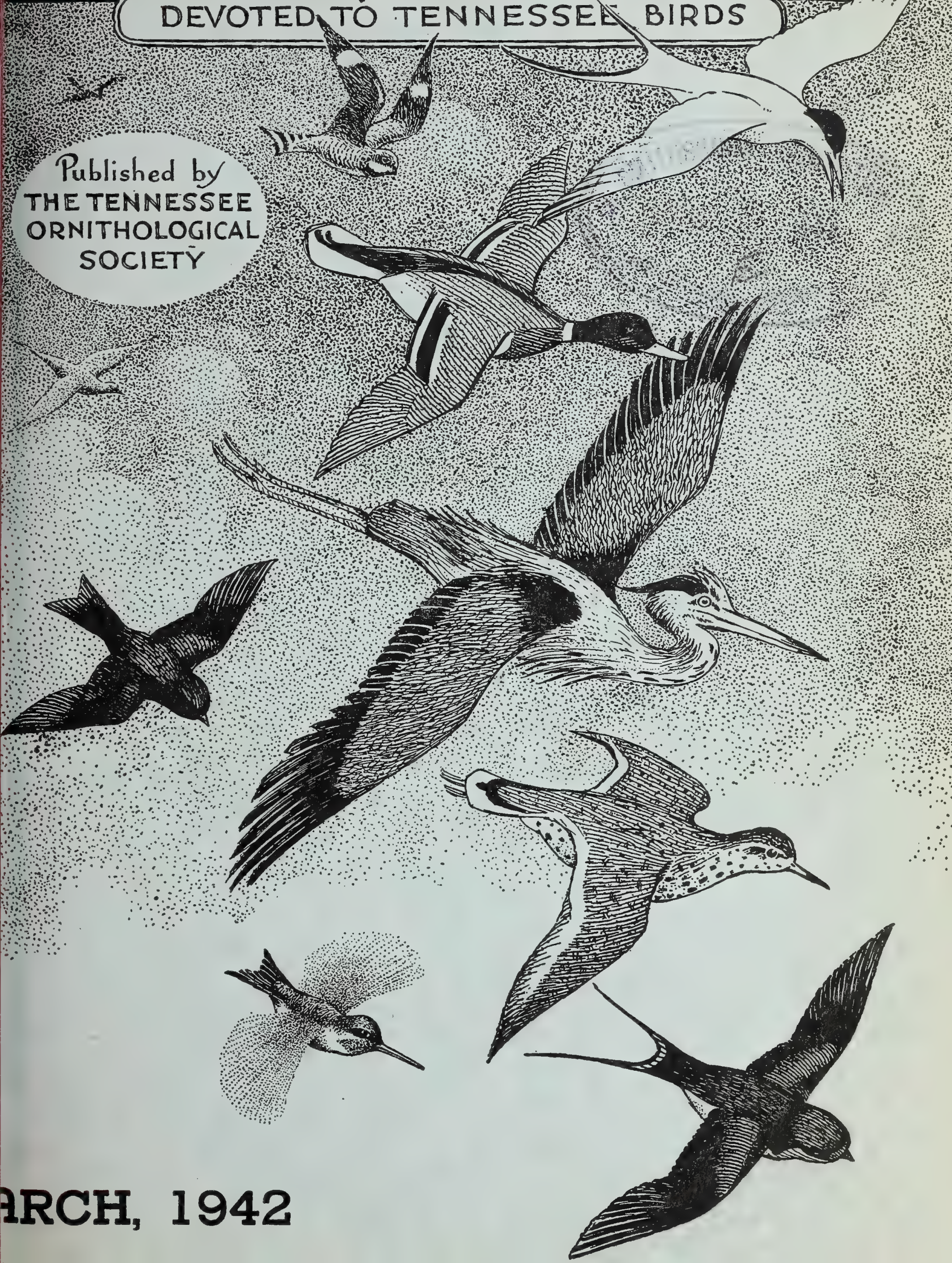

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# THE MIGRANT

VOL. XIII MARCH, 1942 NO. 1

Published by the Tennessee Ornithological Society, to Record and Encourage the Study of Birds in Tennessee. Issued in March, June, September and December.

## THE WRENS OF TENNESSEE

Much valuable field work has been done by our members, quite a few of whom have voluminous records covering many years' observations. In order to make their cumulative experiences a guide to all our members in their study and enjoyment of certain of the birds found in our state, the following cooperative paper has been compiled. A common and popular family group was selected for the subject. We ask your indulgence as we knew of no guide or similar paper and the exigencies of time and space limited various refinements and full use of the fine material so readily submitted. In some instances we had to select the text by lot or rotation. Naturally, there was some individual variation but preponderantly a duplication in notes on the same area.

The introductory paragraph or paragraphs are by the editor while authorship of subsequent descriptive notes is indicated at the end of each verbatim contribution from manuscript. These and the paragraphs on distribution are by the following:

NASHVILLE
- Albert F. Ganier
- George R. Mayfield
- Harry C. Monk
- Jesse M. Shaver
- Harry S. Vaughn

KNOXVILLE
- Wm. M. Walker

JOHNSON CITY
- Bruce P. Tyler

GREAT SMOKY MTS. NATL. PARK
- Arthur Stupka

MEMPHIS
- Ben B. Coffey, Jr.

BANDING STUDIES
- Mrs. Amelia R. Laskey, Nashville

Except where reports of several observers are given for the same region, the above names are omitted. For the Memphis area we are personally indebted to those Scout field students who actively kept records and supplied us with duplicates or made their information available to us. These are: Franklin McCamey, Jr., Eugene Wallace, Austin Burdick, Jr., and Robt. Tucker. We also thank Alfred Clebsch for his special contribution on the Short-billed Marsh Wren.

The value of this paper as a detailed reference might had been enhanced by a complete bibliography of published records of the following species in Tennessee. But here again time and space ruled out such references. Most of the uncommon records since 1931 have been published in *The Migrant*. For you we submit the following notes and the splendid drawings contributed by Robert Tucker.

MAY 5 1942

## TABLE 1 XMAS CENSUS RECORDS

### TEN-YEAR PERIOD 1932-1941

| | 1932 | 1933 | 1934 | 1935 | 1936 | 1937 | 1938 | 1939 | 1940 | 1941 | Average 1937-41 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **WINTER WREN** | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Memphis | 3 | 7 | 2 | 48 | 17 | 16 | 9 | 22 | 12 | 10 | 14 |
| Nashville | 4 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 10 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Knoxville | .... | 1 | 1 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1 | .... | 1 |
| Gt. Smokies | .... | .... | .... | 11 | .... | 2 | 11 | 5 | 3 | 9 | 6 |
| **BEWICK'S WREN** | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Memphis | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Nashville | 5 | 11 | 12 | 7 | 7 | 6 | 7 | 7 | 2 | 9 | 6 |
| Knoxville | .... | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | .... | 1 |
| Murfreesboro | .... | 5 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 13 | 8 | 4 | 0 | 7 | 6 |
| **CAROLINA WREN** | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Memphis | 70 | 62 | 57 | 146 | 75 | 95 | 128 | 87 | 68 | 110 | 98 |
| Nashville | 59 | 60 | 59 | 26 | 23 | 33 | 53 | 42 | 12 | 37 | 35 |
| Knoxville | .... | 38 | 33 | 27 | 10 | 18 | 20 | 8 | 13 | .... | 15 |
| Gt. Smokies | .... | .... | .... | 18 | .... | 26 | 36 | 26 | 10 | 20 | 24 |

## HOUSE WREN

This is a rare transient in Tennessee, more often found in the spring than in the fall. Since the species nests north of the Ohio River and winters along the Gulf and southward, most migrants must pass over the state in one night's time. One instance of its nesting near Johnson City was reported by R. B. Lyle. There is one winter record at Memphis.

Over-zealous field students in this region occasionally, relatively speaking, believe they have found this bird. In most cases, however, final identification is impossible as the elusive creature leaves the vicinity without presenting a full view. More often than not it would turn out to be a Carolina Wren under conditions of poor lighting or poor plumage so that the white stripe over the eye appears to be absent. The House Wren, while smaller, and brown (not reddish brown), and without eye-stripe, can best be distinguished by a recognition of an over-all difference between it and the much more common species, acquired by making one's self familiar with every posture, action, and note of the Carolina Wren. Then, unless the unknown stands out as absolutely different, you may rest assured you have not found a House Wren. The harsher alarm note would label one but most of those encountered at Memphis have been quiet. Length—5 inches.

It is always found at low elevations in dense brush, where its presence is revealed by the song. Once saw one move from a tangle in a vacant lot into fruit tree in a chicken yard but otherwise never noted near or about buildings. Sometimes found on two successive days in the same spot. (Monk).

Memphis Area—No records from 1928 until April 17, 1932, when two were seen at widely separated localities. Generally one to two records of single birds each spring but in 1936 this species was found in Overton Park on April 14, 20, 21, 24 (two), and 25,—a few were found singing. Austin Burdick, Jr., collected one at White Station on December 30, 1941.
Vaiden has published two winter records for Rosedale, Miss. (100 miles south): 1 on Jan. 16, 1938 and 2 on Dec. 19, 1938. We found 2 at Oneida, Ark. (65 miles south) on Nov. 12, 1933, and 1 at Camp Currier (25 miles south) on Oct. 7, 1934. Tucker reports single individuals in Overton Park on Oct. 25 and 27 and north of town on Oct. 4, 1941. Earliest spring record was Mar. 11, 1939, on the bluff's edge.

Nashville Area—Rare and irregular spring transient, present some years and absent others. Majority of records are in last two weeks of April with extremes of April 1, 1922, and May 10, 1931. Longest stay in one season, as measured by extreme dates of occurrence is 29 days. Two were seen May 10, 1922; all other records were of single birds. In 25 years experience I have seen 25 birds. (Monk). This bird is so shy and wary in Middle Tennessee that he is no doubt overlooked very often. In these 27 years on 3,000 trip or daily records I have these: April 4, 1917—1; 1922—April 13, 2, and 1 each April 24, 29 and 30. On the latter date the bird was singing his rattling song quite frequently. I also have a fall record and two other spring records. (Mayfield). Only a few records on the Peabody campus, a representative migration period being March 23-May 2, 1932. (Shaver).

Knoxville Area—One sight record by Mrs. Meyer on April 29, 1939, at the Island Home Sanctuary.

Johnson City Area—Quite rare. Observed on top of Roan Mountain, near Cox's Lake at Johnson City, and on Beaver Creek, just south of Bristol. Evidently breeding in the valley extending from Bristol, Virginia, northeastward. One record of nesting near Johnson City,—by R. B. Lyle. One individual appeared in my garden when a pair of Bewick's Wrens were nesting. One evening I noticed war going on among the wrens. I drove away the House Wren but when I returned home the next evening I discovered the nest of the Bewick's destroyed and all contestants gone.

Great Smoky Mountains National Park—A rare migrant. I have but one record—a bird seen October 7, 1938, near park headquarters (2 miles south of Gatlinburg) at 1450 feet altitude. Mr. Raymond J. Fleetwood, who served here as Wildlife Technician in 1934-1935, observed this species in Cades Cove (1800 feet altitude) on October 22 and 23, 1934, and on April 22, 1935.

Subspecies—The Eastern House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon aedon*) would probably be the more common race found passing through the state. The only specimen secured by the National Museum party was a somewhat grayish phase of the Ohio House Wren (*T. a. baldwini*), collected near Reelfoot Lake, October 23, 1937 (Wetmore, 1939). One of this race was collected Jan. 16, 1938 at Rosedale by Vaiden. The only winter record at Memphis (White Station), December 30, 1941, was a specimen collected by Burdick and catalogued at the Louisiana State University Museum as a Western House Wren (*T. a. parkmanii*). All three forms may occur regularly.

## WINTER WREN

The Eastern Winter Wren (*Nannus hiemalis hiemalis*) is an uncommon but regular winter resident and transient throughout the state except in the Appalachian Mountains where it is replaced by the Southern Winter Wren (*Nannus hiemalis pullus*), a fairly common resident there. Comments on this latter recently described race are given below by Stupka. It may also be a rare winter resident in other parts of the state as it has been taken at Memphis and south of there.

The smallest, darkest, and pertest but most mouse-like of the wrens. Length—4 inches. The call-note, a sharp "kip!" or "kip-kip" is distinctive. Many authorities state the note is similar to one of the Song Sparrow but to this writer it resembles the "cac" of the Ruby-crowned Kinglet or the louder "gip" of the Mocker. Song is a beautiful rippling warble, occasionally heard in early spring before it leaves the Memphis area.

The Winter Wren lives in dense tangles, among the roots beneath a creek bank, in masses of fallen trees, or stumps, usually in woods. Likes to be on or close to the ground with brush or tangles over its head and dark holes to crawl into. Reveals its presence by flushing and a call note much like that of the Song Sparrow which is quite distinctive. (Monk).

Memphis Area—Uncommon but regular winter resident, present from October to mid-April (latest date April 27). No special search made for it on Christmas census trips,—approximate 4-party results average from 10 to 22 individuals with a high of 48 in 1935. Generally found in large wooded bottoms but also in Overton and Riverside Parks.

Nashville Area—Rare but regular winter resident, somewhat more numerous in migrations. Arrives in October (earliest October 7, 1922) and migration lasts at least a month. Christmas censuses reveals it as one-eighth as numerous as the Carolina Wren, but these lists are based on careful search. The experience of routine observation makes it seem even less numerous than this. Spring migration occurs in April (latest date; April 26, 1931) but probably begins in March. Sometimes appears in city parks on migration, otherwise a bird of the woods and wide open spaces. (Monk). Generally rated as uncommon, though because of its silence and elusive habits, it is perhaps more common than suspected. For the last ten Christmas censuses it varies from 1 to 10 and averages 4.1. For the same period fall arrival extends from October 7 to 11, with a mean of October 9, while latest departure dates are from April 15 to 30, May 7, and May 12, with a mean of April 24. These migration records are chiefly from the notes of G. R. Mayfield. (Ganier).

Knoxville Area—This rare winter resident arrives about October 25 to 30. Late spring records (1936 to date) are more complete and show that the last date seen varies from April 3 to April 28, but mostly approach the later date. None were recorded on 22 trips in the spring of 1941, result of a steady decrease each year from the winter of 1936 when a total of 23 records were listed on 16 trips out of 47.

Johnson City Area—Winter Wrens are casual winter visitors in the lowlands. The resident race (*pullus*) breeds in the Canadian life-zone. On Roan Mountain (6000-6313 feet), during the week of June 15 to 20 inclusive, 1936, the T. O. S. summer group found six singing males at various points alongside the summits where the fir timber was still standing. A parent bird was noted carrying food to its young on June 25 (Ganier, 1936—*The Migrant*, p. 85). Wetmore (1939) reports two taken there at 6200 feet elevation on September 13 and September 20, 1937.

Great Smoky Mountains National Park—The Southern Winter Wren (*Nannus hiemalis pullus*) is known to breed from near Lexington, Virginia, to Brasstown Bald, in northern Georgia. Fairly common resident in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, breeding from the highest altitudes (over 6600 ft.) down to approximately 3500 ft. Winters mostly at low altitudes in the park, some few individuals remaining at the high elevations throughout December. Like the Carolina Wren, this species suffered a very severe reduction in its numbers as a result of the unusually cold winter of 1939-1940, but whereas the birds were scarce in 1940, an appreciable recovery was made the following year. Not until May 3, 1940, was the first song heard in the spruce-fir forests whereas singers have been observed there frequently in March. On March 19, 1937, one was singing on Mt. Collins (at 6000 ft.); on March 25, 1939, one was singing near Newfound Gap (at 4800 ft.). The excellent song of this species is at its best throughout June and early July. Some fragments of song are delivered infrequently during August and September, but these ordinarily cannot be compared with the quality of the rendition in the early summer.

Usually the first Winter Wrens make their appearance on the wintering grounds at low altitudes in middle October (October 14, 1938; October 15, 1939 and 1940), and some early-morning singing continues from that time until cold weather sets in. Often these autumn songs are 'scratchy' and fragmentary, but occasionally an excellent performance is given.

The young hatch in late May or early June.

An unusual record of this dark subspecies of the Winter Wren is that of two birds collected on November 1, 1939, near Bethel, North Carolina, some 300 miles east of the park, by members of the United States National Museum (Wetmore, 1941). (The Eastern Winter Wren *Nannus h. hiemalis*, a migrant species, has been taken in various parts of Tennessee and in Eastern North Carolina. The record nearest the park, as far as I have been able to discover, comes from Rockwood, Tennessee——W. H. Fox, March 21, 1885, and April 3, 1884——about 40-45 miles west of our area.)

An additional note is contributed by Ganier: "On June 21, 1933, I found a nest of this wren on Mt. LeConte. It contained 5 young. Allowing 25 days for incubation and fledging, incubation probably began May 27."

## BEWICK'S WREN

Probable status as a permanent resident, based on winter records, is uncommon in Middle Tennessee, rare elsewhere. In early spring migrants are much in evidence while breeding records are fairly common in Middle Tennessee and East Tennessee, and uncommon in West Tennessee.

This wren is slightly smaller, more slim in appearance and grayer brown than the Carolina Wren. The white-tipped tail is diagnostic. Length—5 inches. Its song is more like that of a Song Sparrow than that of the Carolina Wren.

This wren is usually found in the breeding season around farms or in residential areas in towns. In winter it usually reverts to the wild, living in thickets along old rock walls, and in tangles about stumps in fields. Some live about buildings the year around but the species is at home in thickets and tangles; never found in the depths of real forests. (Monk).

Nesting sites vary greatly, chiefly about buildings, less often in natural situations. Favorite site on plate in garages and sheds or in barns. Use mailboxes freely along rural roads. Saw one in woodpecker hole in fallen tree in thicket far from houses. (Monk). It is more prone to breed about the habitations of man than the Carolina Wren. However, in two successive years, I found a nest in the hollow limb of a prostrate tree in a woodland and another in a fence post. (Ganier).

At Nashville nesting begins in March, some pairs building by the middle of that month and laying eggs in the "twenties" of March. These might be permanent resident birds. Most nests are built in April and May and most broods leave nests in May and June. Families remain together at least three weeks after leaving nest. One rarely sees family parties after June. However, Mrs. Laskey reported 5 young leaving the nest August 1, 1937. (Monk). The nests are begun in late March and the first clutch numbers 6 or 7 eggs. Of my 28 nesting records, the ten earliest showed that incubation began on April 6, 10, 10, 15, 15, 17, 17, 17, 18, and 18, the average being April 14. Two broods are raised regularly each year and if one of these is a failure, a third nesting is attempted. The nest is easily distinguishable from that of the Carolina Wren, chiefly in that its exterior is largely formed of twigs (Ganier). A nest containing seven eggs was found Feb. 28, 1941, when an old barn was torn down (Burdick).

The song is indescribably sweet and musical. The male tunes up about March 1 (earliest record, Feb. 12, 1920) and sings on till July 25 (latest, Oct. 6.) Sings quite regularly all day long from April 1 to June 10 (Mayfield). Song has been heard every month of the year but is rarest in November and December. There is a marked resumption in January and it is heard commonly in February and March. Songs heard in fall and midwinter are often imperfect (Monk).

Memphis Area—Very rare in winter. Last few Christmas census lists usually recorded only those (probably resident) at Burdick's or Mason's home. Fairly common in early spring, evidently migrating. Uncommon afterwards and then only on outskirts of Memphis and other towns, but can be classed as fairly common in the spring around rural homes and small settlements along roads eastward on both sides of the Tenn.-Miss. line. Very rare in the Yazoo-Mississippi delta (Miss.) and in similar areas in Tennessee.

Nashville Area—A common summer resident becoming less common in winter. Christmas census records for the past ten years have ranged from 2 to 12, averaging 7 (Ganier). Probably a permanent resident, but sometimes difficult to find in winter (one-sixth as numerous as Carolina Wren on Xmas censuses) and much less numerous at that season than in summer. There is a marked spring migration at which time singing birds appear thruout the region in a wave; this usually occurs in last week in March, but sometimes as early as the 14th of that month. The species is more numerous at this time than during the breeding season, but the migration passes thru quickly. (Monk).

Knoxville Area—This species is uncommon, being recorded on about one field trip in four by local members, from 1936 to date. In 1940 when 25 trips were made, there was only one record, evidently due to the severe winter. The Bewick's prefers lumber piles, old buildings, fence rows close to dwellings, boulder outcrops on hillsides, and river bluffs.

Johnson City Area—Fairly common, generally arrives in February and usually disappears after the breeding season. At my house it has nested on the top of brick piers that support the porch. The second nest was begun before the fledglings had flown from the first nest. Once these wrens nested in an old fish bucket under the back porch. I removed the bucket, opened it, made a photograph, and returned the bucket and nest to the original position where the birds continued incubation and raised the young. Wetmore (1939) reports immature birds recently from the nest, June 7, 1937, at 3300 feet elevation on Cross Mountain, 3 miles south of Shady Grove post office.

Great Smoky Mountains National Park.—An uncommon to rare permanent resident. Mr. Raymond J. Fleetwood has heard it singing on Hemphill Bald, at 5500 ft. altitude, in July, 1935; he has also observed it near Black Camp Gap (4500 ft.) Both these stations are on the park boundary at its extreme south-easterly point, in North Carolina. Most of our records are from stations below the 2000 ft. elevation and fairly close to human habitations ——Cosby, Greenbrier, Elkmont, Sugarlands, Cade's Cove.

Banding Records.—From December, 1931, thru January, 1942, Mrs. Amelia R. Laskey has trapped 119 Bewick's Wrens and banded 94 nestlings of this species at Nashville. One individual only was retaken the year after banding. The only data on the nestlings is a repeat of one at six weeks of age.

Of 119 trapped, only 11 were taken during the winter months of December thru February. One, banded in February, 1933, was retaken January, 1934. From both her data and field observations she concludes that in the Nashville area this species is usually a summer resident with some individuals remaining thru the winter or coming from the north to winter. These winter residents usually are found during the milder winters. "I am at a loss to interpret the lack of return records."

Subspecies—The Bewick's Wren (*Thryomanes bewicki bewicki*) is the only race in this area.

## CAROLINA WREN

This wren is a common permanent resident except at high altitudes in the mountains of East Tennessee and is the most common and widely distributed member of the family in the state. The severe and extended cold weather of January-February, 1940, seriously depleted its numbers in some sections and it has not yet quite fully recovered. Normally, numbers do not vary thru the year and there is no evidence of migratory movements other than perhaps local movements of some individuals from wooded winter quarters into proximity to human habitations at nesting time.

We find this is the largest of our wrens and more reddish brown. According to Lowery, "upper parts averaging mahogany red; under parts ochraeous buff; stripe over the eye variable but averaging nearly white; sides and flanks seldom, if ever, barred or tinged with brown." Length—5½ inches. It has the characteristic energy and seeming curiosity typical of the family. The loud ringing song is much varied but the Cardinal-like quality distinguishes all renditions.

The Carolina Wren is a bird of the Southern woods that has adapted itself to the thickets, fence rows and wooded stream sides and to a lesser extent to the farms and suburban regions of the cities as well. It is always found in forests and thruout such places into their very depths. In adapting itself to more civilized surroundings it overlaps into the chosen territories of the Bewick's Wren for the latter is much more numerous about man's habitation while Carolina has the woods to itself. (Monk).

It nests in an endless variety of sites, often skillfully concealed. Nests in the woods are not often found. They may be located on the ground against a stump or in brush on shore of a pond or in tin can on same; on old nests of other species, completely arched over with entrance hole on one side, in forks or crotches of trees from 3 to 12 feet up. They are skillfully contrived of weathered materials and easily escape detection; often including bits of moss which remain green thru the winter and thus reveal nests which were unnoticed in summer. Elsewhere nests have been found in tin cans, baskets, old hats, pockets of coats, etc. on porches and in outbuildings; on the plate in barns, sheds, and garages. (Monk). Some will build in the natural cavity of a tree or construct an arched-over domicile on top of an old Thrasher's nest in a bush. I have twice found nests on the ground, on a steep slope, and suspect that many woodland residents nest in this way. Their nests are quite bulky and externally are composed chiefly of leaves, moss, and similar soft materials (Ganier).

Five eggs are usually laid, sometimes six, often only four. Earliest record—five fresh eggs on March 21. Often builds in this month and completes sets by the 25th. Nesting continues thru April and May and it appears that many pairs do not lay until May; after this month nests are much rarer, but there are a few June and July egg dates and even one record for Aug. 1. Probably three-fourths of all eggs laid in March, April, and May. Young birds leave the nest in April and May, after this month broods are scarce. One brood followed on Centennial Hill stayed with parents 17 days and were probably gone three weeks after leaving the nest. Mrs. Laskey reports a brood of four to leave the nest on Sept. 4, a very late date (Monk). Five and sometimes six eggs are usually ready for incubation by April 12, but I have records of two nests where incubation began on March 25 (Ganier). At Fall Creek Park 7 young were found in a nest, June 20, 1940.

This little bird with the big voice attracts attention to itself and therefore a higher percentage of the numbers present in the area of a field survey will be recorded than of other species of wrens. Songs are varied and ringing and more musical than those of the House Wren, the much publicized "Jenny Wren" of the North and East. The Carolina, moreover, sings in spring, summer, autumn, and winter—even in the moulting season. In the dead of winter its voice rings out a challenge to all listeners. Only the Mockingbird and the Starling have a more varied repertory of calls, notes, and songs. I estimate it has 20 or more words in its vocabulary, each of which reveals a feeling or mood. It even has a word for "cat"—at least certain individuals I have observed, used this call only when a cat, or a dog, like a cat, appeared. (Mayfield).

Memphis Area:—Fairly common to common permanent resident. In 1938 was rated 16th in list of 25 most common summer residents of Shelby County which has a large amount of open country as well as wooded areas. The severe 1940 winter caused a probable decrease of 10% to 20% in the numbers of this species which were back to normal the second season subsequently.

Nashville Area:—Common permanent resident. Rated 10th on 1938 list of 25 most common summer residents and 13th in a comparison of relative abundance from Christmas census lists (1914-1937). Latter censuses for the last ten years show an average of 40 and ranging from 23 to 60 except in 1940 when only 12 were recorded, due to severe cold weather of January, 1940. (Ganier). Statistical studies since January, 1940, show that 80% of these wrens in Middle Tennessee were wiped out by the prolonged zero temperature of that month. Only recently have they come back in numbers. (Mayfield).—Apparently not yet fully recovered. (Monk).—I found only one dead on top of the snow but it would be obviously difficult to check on mortality in this way. Few were seen or heard during the subsequent nesting season but 1941 showed them increasing in numbers. (Laskey).

Knoxville Area:—Fairly common permanent resident except at higher elevations. However records of field trips, 1936 to 1941, inclusive, show an average of slightly less than four individuals per field trip. Reduced in numbers since 1940.

Johnson City Area:—Fairly common permanent resident. Not included in list of ten most common summer birds (1938) but widely distributed at low altitudes.

Great Smoky Mountains National Park:—Common permanent resident, especially at low altitudes near human habitations and along water-courses. Occasionally found at the higher elevations, but not known to nest above 4000 ft. One immature bird was observed on Mt. LeConte, at an altitude of 6400 ft., from August 31 to the end of October, 1939, but was not to be seen there in 1940 or 1941. The severe winter of 1939-1940 was undoubtedly responsible for a severe reduction in numbers of this species, these birds being unusually scarce during 1940. The parties making an annual December bird count in a section of the park area listed an average of 29 individuals (ranging from 26 to 36) during the years 1937-1939, inclusive, whereas in 1940 only 10 individuals were observed. In December, 1941, the 20 birds seen indicated an appreciable recovery here for this species.

Banding Records—From September, 1931, thru January, 1942, Mrs. Amelia R. Laskey of Nashville has trapped 123 Carolina Wrens and banded 77 nestlings. From repeat records, at least seven individuals are known to have remained at the station or in the immediate neighborhood thruout the year: C109418, C109420, H73027, H73136, H73145, H73200, 36-72681. Two age records are:

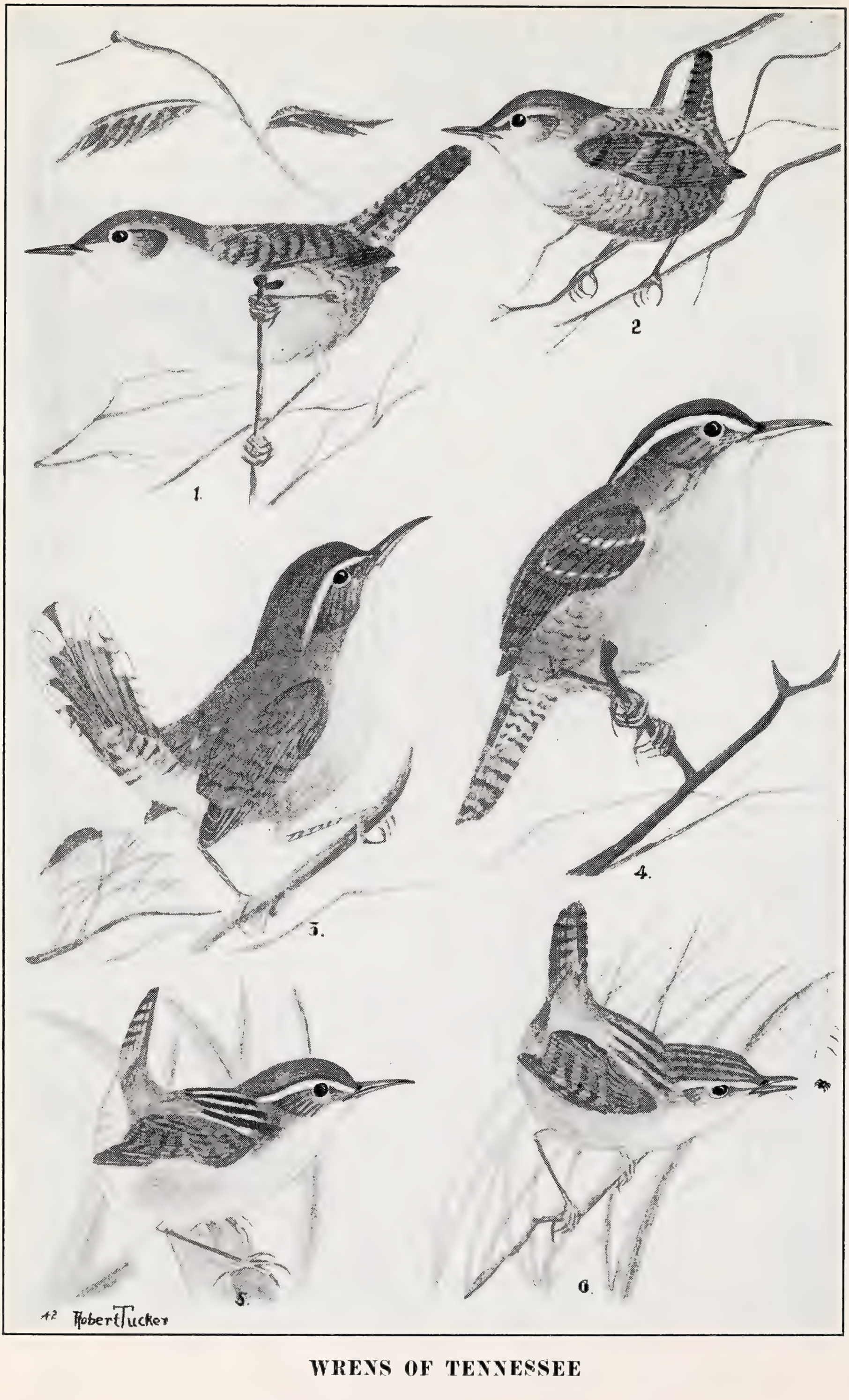
H73145, male, banded June 25, 1934, disappeared the summer of 1938. As he was hatched in 1933 or earlier, his age was 5 or more years.

H73200, female, banded Nov. 19, 1934, not seen after the summer of 1938. Her age, unknown at time of banding, would have been at least 4 years when last seen.

Data on nestlings is meagre but better than for the Bewick's Wren. However, more of the Carolina nestlings have been banded on the home grounds than Bewick's; therefore, there was more opportunity to trap them subsequently. Twelve Carolina Wrens were retrapped at the age of 5 to 8 weeks and none after that. One individual, 38-120554, hatched April 9, 1938, trapped May 20 at the station, was shot on November 4, 1938, two miles north. Conclusions offered:

1. From field observation and banding data the Carolina Wren is a permanent resident in the Nashville Area.
2. Nestlings wander off after six to eight weeks but how far they may travel is still unknown.
3. Individuals may attain the age of five years at least.

Subspecies—in the current A.O.U. Check-list (1931) our bird is listed as the Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus ludovicianus*). George H. Lowery, Jr. in his proposed revision of the Carolina Wrens (*Auk*, 1940, 57 (1): 95-104) includes all of Tennessee in the provisional range of his Southern Carolina Wren (*T. l. ludovicianus*). He specifically mentions East Tennessee specimens at the University of Michigan as part of the collections reviewed.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WRENS OF TENNESSEE

## LONG-BILLED MARSH WREN

A rare transient, possibly a rare summer resident in Cade's Cove (Great Smokies) and a rare winter resident at Reelfoot Lake. Both Marsh Wrens have a stripe over the eye and are striped in the middle of the back but the markings are more conspicuous on this species which is described as "handsome" by both Ganier and Monk. Length—about 5 inches. Peterson describes the song as reedy, gurgling series of notes which fits those heard at Lakeview. One call-note is rail-like but, naturally, not so loud. Described as a bird of the cat-tails, the majority of our transients were found in grassy weed grown edges of marshes. Generally they stay under cover but can usually be "squeaked-up." You often have to wade to find them.

Memphis Area—This is an uncommon spring transient in a restricted area, rare elsewhere; possible fall transient here and probably uncommon winter resident at Reelfoot Lake, 120 miles north. My personal records are all in the spring and at Lakeview; most were from 100 yards to a mile south of the Tennessee line, in weed bordered "borrow-pits" along the levee. From 1932 to 1938, inclusive, the records range from April 22 to May 29, generally 1 to 3 birds at a time, rarely 5 or 6. On the only two Christmas census counts made at Reelfoot we found this species both times. Dec. 25, 1934, I found one near Walnut Log. Had it been a fair day I believe we would have found others. On Dec. 25, 1940, I found 4 near the end of the Biological Station dock and one each in the saw grass at two other places nearby.

Nashville Area:—Rare transient, very rare winter visitant.

I have but one fall record, that of a specimen collected Sept. 13, 1922. In spring I have found it at several of the few bits of river bottom marsh that we have in this area. These records are of 3 on May 5, 1929, at three locations in Trimble Bottom and 4 on May 18 and again on May 23, 1940, at the Jordonia pond. A specimen was collected on each of the last two dates and on examination gave no evidence of having begun to mate. They were in tall grass and weeds near the pond's edge. (Ganier). Of my three personal records two were seen in cat-tails on the shore of Radnor Lake, Sept. 28, 1929, and Oct. 6, 1932, respectively. The third bird was in a large canna bed in Centennial Park, Oct. 18, 1935. All permitted close observation, exhibiting considerable curiosity, and uttering a call-note like the "chack" of a Red-wing. Calhoun collected one in North Nashville marsh Aug. 5, 1936, which shows an early fall migration, and saw one near Cumberland River Dec. 26, 1937, raising question of its wintering here. (Monk). Single birds of this species were recorded: May 4, 1916, Jan. 28, 1917, April 25, 1923, Aug. 12, 1931, May 22, 1932, Oct. 9, 1932, and April 21, 1933. The bird of Aug. 12, 1931, was heard several days in mid-August (Mayfield). These 16 records cover a period of April 21 to May 23 and Aug. 5 to Oct. 18 with one recorded in December and January.

Knoxville Area:—One was found March 21, 1938, by Dr. and Mrs. Henry Meyer at Lake Andrew Jackson. The particular site was low and wet, and had a heavy cover of rank grass and a few cat-tails.

Johnson City Area:—This is an accidental visitor, occasionally seen in the cat-tail swamps at Cox's Lake during the fall.

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Illustrated Opposite Are: 1, House Wren; 2, Winter Wren; 3, Bewick's Wren; 4, Carolina Wren; 5, Long-billed Marsh Wren; 6, Short-billed Marsh Wren.

Great Smoky Mountains National Park:—The only park records come from the Cades Cove area, where I first observed it on May 20, 1938. In 1939 the species was observed in the same place on May 17, while in 1940 it was again in the same swampy meadow on May 6 and 26 (altitude 1800 ft.) Only one individual was to be found on each of these occasions, but I suspect that the species nests here, at least during certain years.

Subspecies—two races are possible transients in Tennessee.—the Long-billed Marsh Wren (*Telmatodytes palustris palustris*) which breeds from southern Ontario and southern Quebec south to the coast of Virginia and the Prairie Marsh Wren (*Telmatodytes palustris iliacus*) which breeds in the prairies of the Mid-west and western Canada. Collections in adjacent areas include both subspecies.

## SHORT-BILLED MARSH WREN

Very rare spring transient and rare fall transient, records for the latter season being much more common than for the Long-billed. Clarksville reports possible dummy nests. A very unusual Memphis area record of 40 individuals scattered in the grassy fields along the Horn Lake levee, straddling the Mississippi line, on Aug. 9, 1936. They were easily recorded then because of their singing; at other times they would have been passed unnoticed if they had not been 'kicked-up.' The song resembles that of the Dickcissel,—once we even had to flush one in typical Dickcissel habitat to prove to a car-load of good field students that it wasn't an 'off' song of the more common species. The bird itself is inconspicuously colored, even the black and gray bands on the middle of the back lack contrast. Ganier states it has a weak and fluttering flight. When flushed it quickly drops into concealment again.

Memphis Area—a very erratic transient, rare in spring, uncommon in late summer (Aug. 2 to Sept. 23). Records for spring are May 5, 1935—1; May 9, 1937—12; May 1, 1938—1; all at Lakeview, Miss., with the 1935 record on the Tennessee side of the line. On Aug. 13, 1933, two were seen in the Ensley bottoms (Tenn.); Sept. 23, 1934, 8 found at Mound City chute (Ark.), just across the river. In 1936, the banner season, none were seen July 11 at Ensley but 5 were at Lakeview on Aug. 2. On the 9th we recorded 40 singing in a 3½ mile stretch along the Lakeview levee, most of the territory being in Mississippi. On Aug. 16, 6 were heard in the same stretch, without intensive search, plus 10 more to the west. On Aug. 23, 5 were recorded. No records in 1937. In 1938 one was found Aug. 19: no other records altho searched for thruout July and September. No subsequent records at hand altho this levee area is visited often in September. In the Forked Deer overflow south of Dyersburg we found 8 on Sept. 2, 1934. We have listed a record of 1 at Reelfoot, Apr. 30, 1937, but have misplaced credit for same.

Nashville Area:—Uncommon to rare transient but because of its secretive habits it may be more numerous than realized. Also, there is a possibility that it may eventually be found to be a rare, local breeder in the state. An examination of two specimens indicated possible breeding. In company with G. R. Mayfield I collected these in a soybean field on Aug. 29, 1931, and Aug. 12, 1933. I have two fall records: Oct. 13, 1935, and Oct. 22, 1939. One was seen May 22, 1934, at Mingo Swamp near Winchester

(Ganier). This wren is chiefly a fall transient as indicated by the following records (one each except as noted): May 12, 1927; May 1, 1932; Dec. 28, 1929; Sept. 22, 1930; Aug. 12 (three) and Oct. 1, 1933; Oct. 11, 1934. From Aug. 25 to Sept. 4, 1931 at least two were recorded; one or more being heard singing every day. (Mayfield). Have one personal record, that of one found in weed-covered Cumberland River bottoms near Gravelotte, Aug. 28, 1921. (Monk). One seen May 17 and 18, 1932, on Peabody campus. (Shaver).

Clarksville Area:—These wrens were discovered in the swampy meadow near Dunbar's Cave on July 25, 1936. A dummy nest was found Aug. 2, and another on Aug. 7 when 24 birds were flushed. The two nests were unlined and rather shallow. Mr. Jas. Robins also found these birds at two nearby sites. The last date was Nov. 4 at the first location when 4 were seen. In 1937 this species arrived there between Aug. 2 and 4, and in much smaller numbers. In 1938 we had a wet summer but turned up only a single Short-billed—on Oct. 22 (Alfred Clebsch).

Middle Tennessee:—Based on records for above two areas, inclusive dates would seem to be May 1 to May 12 (two records); July 25 to Nov. 4; and accidental, Dec. 28, 1929 (one recorded).

Knoxville Area:—One was seen here on a field day, May 1, 1932 (H. P. Ijams and Brockway Crouch).

Johnson City Area:—No records.

Great Smoky Mountains National Park:—No records.

Subspecies—The present A.O.U. Check-list (1931) recognizes no races of the Short-billed Marsh Wren (*Cistothorus stellaris*).

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Other references are in the text. Many of the above records have appeared, scattered thruout the pages of *The Migrant.*

## WITH OUR MEMBERS

From Nashville we learn that the George Woodrings have a son, George, Jr., born Jan. 12, 1942. From Boston we learn of the birth of Eleanor Perry McCamey on March 1, 1942. The McCameys hope to visit Memphis this fall after a summer directing nature study at camps near Boston. And at Greeneville it's now Mrs. Ruth Reed Nevius, according to our census data.

Miss Jane Covington became the bride of Dr. Earl O'Dell Henry at Mayfield, Ky. After a trip to New Orleans the Henrys were at home in Knoxville for a short period. They are now at the Marine base, Parris Island, S.C.

# BOB-WHITE ROOSTING AT MID-DAY

### BY AMELIA R. LASKEY

Only a small remnant is left of the large numbers of Bob-white that once frequented the area around our home. However on each of the cold, snowy days of this winter, the little covey of seven birds never fails to visit our grounds, walking or running in single file up and down the hedge rows and shrub borders hunting the millet seeds that had been scattered there for them.

February 25 of 1942 was a cold, gray day with snow covering all the ground except a very few spots beneath dense evergreens which had held the wet snow in their branches. As I feed often and heavily during inclement weather, a large quantity of millet was put under the Norway spruce at the front of our lot, hoping the quail would arrive before the other birds had garnered it all.

Their arrival was not seen but at 11 A.M. the seven Bob-white were scratching like domestic hens among the brown leaves that had recently been blown there as winter winds had denuded the nearby pin oak of its heavy cloak of rustling, dry foliage. Busily they scratched, each foot alternating, then a bobbing of the head to pick up the uncovered grain. From a window about a hundred feet away, I watched them feed for about thirty minutes.

Suddenly three birds squatted side by side, facing outward. Then others joined them on the bed of leaves under the low-hanging spruce branches in a loose formation with all heads outward. When the entire seven had squatted, all began a backward movement until they had formed a small, tight circle, the typical night-roosting formation. Thus they remained motionless, blending so well with the background that, to my eyes, they appeared as a brown hummock of leaves beyond the snow line. Focusing 8x binoculars upon them, I noted that after ten minutes of resting, two or three began preening breast feathers. Then followed another motionless period, broken occasionally by a snuggling movement as they slightly shifted positions or formed a more compact circle. Later two birds rose from the group, walked about as if to resume feeding; the remaining five cuddled closer together. After about two minutes, the two decided to rejoin the group. They walked around it, one finding space enough to get in. The second bird continued to walk around the others, pressing its side against their breasts in a vain effort to find an opening. Then it jumped on one of them, walked across its back, then eased down between the two birds on the opposite side of the circle. Thus it was able to press an opening for itself in proper outward-facing position to resume the mid-day siesta within the circle's warmth. They continued to rest, occasionally preening breast and back feathers until noon (C.W.T.) They broke the formation gradually; four rose in single file to resume scratching and were soon joined by the others.

NASHVILLE, March 5, 1942.

# CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY BIRDS

By Harry C. Yeatman

The strip of land between Ashwood and Mt. Pleasant, Tennessee, which was surveyed for this list of birds includes Hamilton Place (my home) and adjacent fields, much of the property of Hoover and Mason Phosphate Company (including two lakes), and the property between these known as the Granberry Place—about 500 to 1000 acres in all, but not more than 100 to 300 were examined any day. Surveys were made usually between December 20 and January 3, from 1935 through 1941. Data from scattered notes taken before 1935 are also included.

The area contains various types of habitats:—fence rows of hackberry, elm, and maple trees, blackberry bushes, and high weeds; open fields, plowed or with sparse vegetation; fields with high weeds, old standing cornstalks or both; broomsedge meadows; thickets of oak, osage orange, walnut, maple, locust, hackberry with and without buckberry and blackberry underbrush; several canebrakes; several tree-lined branches and temporary springs; oak, linden, and elm groves; human habitations with evergreen, boxwood, and privet shrubbery and magnolia trees; and two moderate sized lakes. These habitats change from year to year and so the bird communities also change. The plowing of a certain fine field of high weeds that furnished the Short-eared Owl with small mammals and protection, has driven this interesting and useful bird from the area in recent years. The Towhee has not been recorded since 1938 because livestock have cleaned out much of its favorite underbrush. Good places for shelter from enemies and the weather are almost as important as good food conditions. Most owls will not frequent an area devoid of hollow trees and thickly populated with Crows. Canebrakes, shrubbery, and thorny tangles are ideal roosting places for the native Sparrows, and old Woodpecker holes are fine for Bluebirds and Chickadees as well as Woodpeckers.

Food conditions are more likely to affect the distribution of winter birds than any other factors. All the berry and seed-producing plants mentioned above have usually furnished sufficient food every year for the seed-eating birds or for the small mammals and birds upon which the meat-eating birds feed. Carrion is usually available for the Vultures, and wood-borers and hibernating insects are present in sufficient numbers to lure insectivorous birds to the area.

The difference in weather conditions from year to year has affected the bird lists. In especially warm winters such birds as the Red-headed Woodpecker are likely to be seen, while during very cold, snowy winters rare northern birds may be expected.

The amount of wandering differs noticeably among the species of birds in the area. Although food availability usually controls the wandering of birds, some actually seem to have the wanderlust. Some species are extensive wanderers, especially those that travel in flocks such as Grackles and Cedar Waxwings. Goldfinches are also quite wanderers. One day this past winter dozens were feeding in weedy fields and others were constantly flying overhead, but the following day absolutely none were found although food was still present in abundance. Some species are moderate wanderers. Red-tailed Hawks, Sparrow Hawks, Bob-whites, and the like wander over several miles, but usually spend most of their time and roost in certain favorite spots. Other species such as Cardinals are rather stationary, feeding over an area of a few acres and usually returning to the same spot to roost every night.

The common, widely distributed species (Juncos, Chickadees, et al), the relatively stationary species, and even the moderate wanderers can be found practically any day; but the species with the wanderlust, though they may be present in large numbers when found, are often as difficult to locate on certain days as are the rarer species. Thus, changes in habitats, food conditions, weather conditions, and wanderlust have varied the bird lists.

The following list contains more or less common birds, but it may be useful for comparison with lists of other localities in Tennessee. The scarcity of waterbirds in the list is attributable to the small number of trips to the lakes and to duck hunters (more to their presence than to their shooting ability).

## THE LIST

GREAT BLUE HERON.—Only two records; one found Dec. 31, 1938, and one Dec. 29, 1939, in fields near the Hoover and Mason upper lake.

COMMON MALLARD.—One male in 1938 and several males and females in 1940 are our only records; however, this and the other ducks in this list are said to be fairly common every winter on the Hoover and Mason lakes.

RED-LEGGED BLACK DUCK.—12 recorded in 1938, 12 in 1940, and 3 in 1941. I assume the above subspecies to be correct, no specimens being collected.

RING-NECKED DUCK.—Several seen in 1940.

LESSER SCAUP DUCK.—5 recorded in 1938 and 6 in 1940.

TURKEY VULTURE.—Several recorded in 1935, 1936, 1938, 1941; not nearly as numerous as the Black Vulture.

BLACK VULTURE.—Common every winter except 1939 when only 1 was observed; roost of about 50 usually in the area.

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK.—Rare; 1 in the area in 1937 and 1 just outside in 1939.

COOPER'S HAWK.—One observed in the field in 1934, 1936, 1937; 2 freshly killed specimens examined in 1940 and 1941.

EASTERN RED-TAILED HAWK.—Common on certain days; in 1941 four could be seen soaring together almost any day.

MARSH HAWK.—One recorded 1935, 1938, 1940; several in 1936, 1937, 1939; none seen 1941.

EASTERN PIGEON HAWK.—Not recorded during my regular winter census dates, but included in this list because of its rarity. One collected for a scientific specimen Nov. 26, 1932, and 1 observed pursuing a Red-headed Woodpecker in Nov. 1933 are my only records. The stomach of the collected bird contained the remains of a Myrtle Warbler.

EASTERN SPARROW HAWK.—Fairly common every year: snow and food scarcity on Dec. 30, 1935, forced one of these small falcons to take a female Cardinal—unusual prey.

EASTERN BOB-WHITE.—One small covey recorded every year except 1941 when 2 rather large coveys were observed.

**Ring-necked Pheasant.**—A cock and 3 hens released in the fall of 1935 and observed throughout 1935 and the spring, summer, and fall of 1936, but disappeared in the winter of 1936 when I released my remaining cock and two hens. Evidently the caged birds kept the liberated ones in the area. These birds seemed well able to escape from their natural enemies, but automobiles killed a hen and some of her nearly grown offspring; the remaining birds probably moved to a wilder region if they escaped the hunters' guns.

**American Coot.**—One recorded in 1941, but at least several must come to the lakes every winter.

**Killdeer.**—Common on certain days, but none were recorded the winter of 1937.

**Wilson's Snipe.**—3 in muddy corn field Dec. 31, 1936; 1 at lower lake Dec. 29, 1941; 2 at lower lake Jan. 2, 1942.

**Eastern Mourning Dove.**—Fairly common 1934, 1935, 1939, 1940; rather scarce 1936, 1937; common 1938, 1941.

**Eastern Screech Owl.**—One in 1935, 2 in 1939, and 2 in 1941; however, since owls usually hide in the daytime and do little calling in the winter nights, it is probable that this owl, the Barred Owl, and possibly the Great Horned Owl are fairly common.

**Great Horned Owl.**—Two trapped by farmers in 1934; several are trapped or shot in Maury County every year.

**Northern Barred Owl.**—One, rabbit hunting in a field of high weeds in 1933; 2 trapped by farmers in 1932.

**Short-eared Owl.**—One collected for a scientific specimen in Dec. 1933, several observed in 1934, 1 in 1936, and 1 a few miles outside the area in 1937. The stomach of the collected bird contained Long-tailed Shrews.

**Eastern Belted Kingfisher.**—From 1 to 3 seen every year on the lakes and occasionally on the branches.

**Northern Flicker.**—Common. (Possibly a few records were of the Southern Flicker).

**Southern Pileated Woodpecker.**—One in 1935, 1937, 1939, 1941; 2 in 1938, 1940; fairly common in the fall when the magnolia seed are ripe.

**Red-bellied Woodpecker.**—Several recorded in 1934, 1939, 1940, 1941; common in 1936; fairly common in 1938.

**Red-headed Woodpecker.**—One in 1934 and 1936.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.**—One in 1937 and 1941; judging from the numbers of trees attacked by this species, it must be fairly common at least sometime during the year.

**Eastern Hairy Woodpecker.**—Rather scarce in most winters; not recorded 1938, 1939. (Possibly a few records were of the Southern Hairy Woodpecker.)

**Northern Downy Woodpecker** and the **Southern Downy Woodpecker.**—Fairly common.

**Prairie Horned Lark.**—Common; abundant on some days.

**Northern Blue Jay.**—Scarce, not recorded in 1935 and 1939.

**Eastern Crow** and the **Southern Crow.**—Abundant, several enormous roosts in the area. Fly in by the thousands at dusk. Most feed on waste corn, carrion, and hackberries.

**Carolina Chickadee.**—Common.

TUFTED TITMOUSE.—Fairly common.

BROWN CREEPER.—Although I have seen many along the Duck River near Columbia, Tenn., this elusive bird was not recorded in the area until Jan. 2, 1942 when one was found.

EASTERN WINTER WREN.—One in 1936 and 1938; easily overlooked, so may be more numerous than the records indicate.

BEWICK'S WREN.—Several recorded each year.

CAROLINA WREN.—Fairly common.

EASTERN MOCKINGBIRD.—Fairly common.

EASTERN ROBIN.—Several recorded each year except 1940 when none were found.

EASTERN HERMIT THRUSH.—Several found in 1941; evidently the area is not to their liking.

EASTERN BLUEBIRD.—Fairly common.

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET.—Fairly common in 1941; although sought, they were not recorded the other census years.

AMERICAN PIPIT.—Fairly common one warm day in Dec. 1934; not seen since.

CEDAR WAXWING.—Several recorded in 1936 and a flock of 8 in 1938.

MIGRANT SHRIKE.—One seen every year except 1938 and 1940 when none were found.

STARLING.—Fairly common.

MYRTLE WARBLER.—Rather scarce in 1934 and 1936; not recorded since.

ENGLISH SPARROW.—Common.

EASTERN MEADOWLARK and the SOUTHERN MEADOWLARK.—Common; the Eastern subspecies is most likely the more numerous in winter.

EASTERN RED-WING.—Two large flocks in 1936; many large flocks in 1938 and 1941.

BRONZED GRACKLE.—Several large flocks each year.

EASTERN COWBIRD.—Several flocks each year.

EASTERN CARDINAL.—Common; 1 partly white female found in 1940.

EASTERN PURPLE FINCH.—Common in 1936 and 2 found in 1938. In 1938 some were observed eating carrion.

EASTERN GOLDFINCH.—Fairly common on certain days.

RED-EYED TOWHEE.—Several seen every year until 1939 when livestock cleaned out much underbrush.

EASTERN SAVANNAH SPARROW.—Fairly common in 1936 and 1938; several recorded in 1937 and 1941.

SLATE-COLORED JUNCO.—Common, often abundant.

EASTERN FIELD SPARROW.—Common.

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW.—Fairly common..

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW.—Common.

EASTERN FOX SPARROW.—Fairly common.

SWAMP SPARROW.—Several recorded each year, should be more common.

EASTERN SONG SPARROW.—Common.

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA.
CHAPEL HILL, N. C., January 8, 1942.

# ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CENSUS

By Our Members

The state record of 74 species was bettered by a Memphis list of 78. The Nashville list of 72 and the Great Smoky list of 52 are also the highest to date at these respective localities.

| | Memphis Dec. 21, 1941 | Hickory Flat, Miss. Jan. 1, 1942 | Chickasaw Forest Dec. 25 | White Bluff Jan. 18 | Clarksville Dec. 21 | Nashville Dec. 21 | Murfreesboro Dec. 22 | Caryville Dec. 27 | Greeneville Dec. 26 | Gt. Smoky Park Dec. 21 | Johnson City Dec. 28 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Number of Species | 78 | 38 | 45 | 39 | 55 | 72 | 41 | 31 | 33 | 52 | 43 |
| Number of Individuals | 14,658 | 1333 | 1045 | 779 | 1166 | 4599 | 780 | 562 | 1137 | 1966 | 4341 |
| Number of Observers | 22 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 28 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 30 | 7 |
| Pied-billed Grebe | 1 | .... | 5 | .... | 2 | 1 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Double-crested Cormorant | 3 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Great Blue Heron | 4 | .... | .... | .... | 1 | 3 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Canada Goose | 10 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 4 | .... | .... | .... |
| Common Mallard | 3 | .... | .... | 2 | 6 | 24 | .... | 34 | .... | .... | 26 |
| Black Duck | .... | .... | .... | .... | 3 | 26 | 1 | 283 | .... | .... | .... |
| Gadwall | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 3 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| American Pintail | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 4 | .... | .... | .... |
| Blue-winged Teal | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1 | .... | .... | .... |
| Redhead | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Ring-necked Duck | .... | .... | 76 | .... | 175 | 31 | .... | 2 | .... | .... | .... |
| Canvas-back | 3 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Lesser Scaup | 65 | .... | .... | .... | .... | 46 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Buffle-head | 2 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Hooded Merganser | .... | .... | .... | .... | 3 | 1 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Unidentified Ducks | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 100 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Turkey Vulture | 4 | 7 | 19 | 11 | 5 | 4 | .... | .... | 24 | 2 | 4 |
| Black Vulture | 1 | 6 | 1 | 12 | 2 | 53 | 4 | .... | .... | 2 | 1 |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk | 2 | .... | .... | .... | .... | 2 | .... | .... | .... | 1 | .... |
| Cooper's Hawk | 3 | 1 | .... | .... | .... | 4 | 1 | 1 | .... | 2 | 1 |
| Red-tailed Hawk | 16 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 11 | .... | .... | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Red-shouldered Hawk | 7 | .... | .... | .... | 2 | 2 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Marsh Hawk | 7 | .... | .... | .... | 1 | 2 | .... | 1 | .... | .... | .... |
| Duck Hawk | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 2 | .... |
| Sparrow Hawk | 22 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 25 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 6 |
| Ruffed Grouse | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 7 | .... |
| Bob-white | 109 | .... | .... | 1 | .... | 24 | .... | 19 | .... | 12 | .... |
| Chukar Partridge | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | *1 | .... |
| American Coot | 2 | .... | 1 | .... | 1 | .... | .... | 1 | .... | .... | .... |
| Killdeer | 50 | .... | .... | .... | .... | 44 | 1 | .... | 2 | .... | 2 |
| Woodcock | .... | .... | 1 | .... | .... | 1 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| (Red-backed?) Sandpiper | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | *1 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Wilson's Snipe | 1 | .... | .... | .... | .... | 6 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Ring-billed Gull | 159 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Mourning Dove | 265 | .... | 1 | 4 | 14 | 151 | .... | .... | 175 | 2 | 9 |
| Screech Owl | 1 | .... | .... | .... | .... | 3 | 1 | .... | .... | .... | 1 |
| Great Horned Owl | 2 | .... | .... | .... | 1 | 2 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Barred Owl | 1 | .... | .... | .... | 1 | 3 | .... | .... | .... | 1 | .... |
| Belted Kingfisher | 1 | .... | 3 | 3 | 3 | 16 | 1 | 1 | .... | 2 | .... |
| Flicker | 102 | 3 | 11 | 10 | 12 | 64 | 8 | 3 | 9 | 1 | 18 |
| Pileated Woodpecker | 3 | .... | 3 | 1 | 7 | 21 | 1 | .... | .... | 6 | 1 |
| Red-bellied Woodpecker | 41 | 4 | 4 | 8 | 10 | 37 | 2 | 1 | 7 | .... | 2 |
| Red-headed Woodpecker | 16 | .... | 2 | .... | 1 | 3 | 1 | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Yellow-bellied Sapsucker | 9 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 10 | 6 | 3 | .... | 2 | 5 | 1 |
| Hairy Woodpecker | 10 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 11 | 7 | .... | .... | 19 | 1 |
| Downy Woodpecker | 29 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 16 | 57 | 1 | .... | .... | 18 | 20 |
| Phoebe | 1 | 1 | .... | .... | .... | .... | 1 | .... | 1 | 2 | .... |
| †Prairie Horned Lark | 3 | .... | .... | .... | 121 | 92 | 36 | .... | 10 | .... | .... |
| Blue Jay | 313 | 20 | 28 | 4 | 20 | 43 | 5 | .... | 11 | 8 | 53 |
| Raven | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 6 | .... |
| Crow | 58 | 5 | 36 | 31 | 52 | 358 | 200 | 3 | 570 | 500 | 59 |
| †Chickadees | 134 | 15 | 37 | 17 | 35 | 151 | 8 | 3 | 16 | 300 | 48 |
| Tufted Titmouse | 110 | 2 | 24 | 20 | 18 | 73 | 9 | .... | 18 | 49 | 39 |
| White-breasted Nuthatch | 5 | .... | 1 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 1 | .... | 2 | 8 | 9 |
| Red-breasted Nuthatch | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 9 | .... |
| Brown Creeper | 10 | .... | 2 | .... | 2 | 2 | 2 | .... | .... | 10 | 1 |
| Winter Wren | 10 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 5 | .... | .... | 1 | 9 | 1 |
| Bewick's Wren | 2 | .... | .... | .... | 3 | 9 | 7 | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Carolina Wren | 110 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 18 | 37 | 4 | .... | 12 | 20 | 26 |

| | Memphis Dec. 21, 1941 | Hickory Flat, Miss. Jan. 1, 1942 | Chickasaw Forest Dec. 25 | White Bluff Jan. 18 | Clarksville Dec. 21 | Nashville Dec. 21 | Murfreesboro Dec. 22 | Caryville Dec. 27 | Greeneville Dec. 26 | Gt. Smoky Park Dec. 21 | Johnson City Dec. 28 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Mockingbird | 110 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 10 | 131 | 8 | 1 | 9 | 6 | 23 |
| Brown Thrasher | 13 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Robin | 1081 | 32 | 92 | 76 | 42 | 356 | 125 | .... | .... | 66 | 13 |
| Hermit Thrush | 30 | .... | 14 | 2 | .... | 5 | .... | 2 | .... | 19 | 6 |
| Bluebird | 111 | 16 | 50 | 21 | 26 | 200 | 25 | .... | 18 | 17 | 53 |
| Golden-crowned Kinglet | 80 | 22 | 42 | .... | 2 | 6 | .... | .... | 1 | 101 | 7 |
| Ruby-crowned Kinglet | 16 | .... | 1 | 1 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 34 | .... |
| American Pipit | 6 | .... | .... | .... | .... | 75 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Cedar Waxwing | 147 | 28 | 66 | .... | 39 | 88 | .... | .... | .... | 15 | 10 |
| †Shrike | 53 | 4 | 1 | .... | .... | 7 | 4 | .... | .... | .... | 2 |
| Starling | 74 | .... | .... | 2 | 30 | 247 | 8 | 14 | 22 | 21 | 3000 |
| Black & White Warbler* | 1 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Myrtle Warbler | 250 | 2 | 36 | 3 | 22 | 30 | 25 | .... | 3 | .... | 27 |
| Palm Warbler | .... | .... | .... | .... | 3 | .... | .... | .... | 5 | .... | .... |
| English Sparrow | Com. | 22 | 30 | 27 | 149 | 240 | .... | 6 | 58 | 25 | 300 |
| Meadowlark | 508 | 30 | 25 | .... | 10 | 144 | 24 | 3 | 11 | 11 | 2 |
| Red-wing | 110 | 30 | .... | .... | .... | 3 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Rusty Blackbird | 2 | .... | .... | .... | .... | 106 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| †Bronzed Grackle | 5635 | .... | .... | .... | .... | 2 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Cowbird | 61 | .... | .... | .... | .... | 75 | .... | .... | 62 | .... | .... |
| Cardinal | 443 | 13 | 26 | 26 | 48 | 326 | 20 | 11 | 14 | 36 | 37 |
| Purple Finch | 24 | 4 | 38 | 17 | 23 | .... | 12 | 6 | .... | 6 | .... |
| Pine Siskin | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | 14 | .... |
| Goldfinch | 339 | 74 | 66 | 31 | .... | 87 | 8 | 20 | 16 | 116 | 71 |
| Towhee | 70 | 5 | .... | 32 | 12 | 112 | 19 | 7 | .... | 4 | 4 |
| Savannah Sparrow | 51 | 5 | 5 | .... | .... | 4 | .... | 1 | .... | *1 | .... |
| Leconte's Sparrow | 1 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| †Juncos | 1053 | 425 | 127 | 163 | 58 | 242 | 92 | 14 | 32 | 250 | 320 |
| Tree Sparrow | 12 | .... | .... | .... | 2 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |
| Field Sparrow | 512 | 314 | 67 | 85 | 24 | 66 | 45 | 41 | 3 | 44 | 14 |
| White-crowned Sparrow | 63 | .... | .... | .... | 2 | 15 | 19 | .... | 5 | .... | 57 |
| White-throated Sparrow | 1300 | 127 | 63 | 43 | 60 | 227 | 24 | 15 | 7 | 69 | 23 |
| Fox Sparrow | 122 | 7 | .... | 3 | 2 | 8 | 5 | .... | .... | 2 | 1 |
| Swamp Sparrow | 72 | 50 | 2 | 20 | 9 | 11 | .... | 2 | .... | .... | .... |
| Song Sparrow | 398 | 48 | 20 | 68 | 32 | 225 | 11 | 55 | 9 | 104 | 40 |
| Lapland Longspur | 200 | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... | .... |

### † SPECIAL NOTES

Prairie Horned Lark—Might include some of the Northern race.

Chickadees—Carolina Chickadee only at every locality except the Great Smoky Mts. Nat'l. Park where both the Black-capped and Carolina were observed but not listed separately.

Shrike—Should be Migrant Shrike except possibly some Loggerheads at Memphis.

Bronzed Grackle—Should be Purple Grackle for all East Tenn. censuses.

Juncos—Should be Slate-colored Juncos at all localities except in the Great Smoky Mts. Park, the count for which includes both this species and the Carolina Junco.

### * SPECIAL NOTES

Chukar Partridge (Gt. Smoky Mts.)—One observed on Sugarland Mt. at 15 feet by Dougherty who, having studied this exotic species on game farms in East Tennessee, is well acquainted with it. Sixty individuals were released in East Tennessee, at points within 60 miles of the park boundary, in the spring of 1941; two or three of the birds appeared here in the mountains early in the summer, but then seemed to have disappeared (Arthur Stupka, compiler.)

(Red-backed?) Sandpiper—first Xmas sandpiper record at Nashville. The bird was seen by Woodring and Sharp on Radnor Lake. It was not there the following day but was believed to be a Red-backed Sandpiper.

Black and White Warbler (Memphis)—first winter record for this area. Reported by Vincent on Dec. 20, verified at same place by Coffey, Tucker, and Vincent on the census, next day, and seen again by Tucker on the 23rd. See 'The Round Table' for other winter records of this species.

Savannah Sparrow (Gt. Smoky Mts.)—by Walker.

### ADDITIONAL NOTES

Memphis—Additional species listed subsequently: by Tucker—1 Yellow-billed Cuckoo (weak condition) and 2 Orange-crowned Warblers on the 23rd, and 1 Blue-headed Vireo on the 26th; by Mason—1 Am. Merganser on the 23rd and later.

Chickasaw Forest—English Sparrow was only listed species not recorded inside forest.

Gt. Smoky Mts. Park—Barred Owl was seen by Green while it was being mobbed by Crows. A poor seed crop of spruce and fir this year may be a factor in scarcity of Pine Siskins and in absence of Red Crossbills. Three Turkeys observed in this area Dec. 20, and occasional evidences of their presence seen on day when count was made.

See also 'The Season'.

MEMPHIS—Dec. 21, 6:45 to 5; overcast all day; slight wind; temp. 45° to 64°. Same areas as 1940, omitting lower end of Benjestown Rd., adding area south of Airport. Separate auto parties north, to Raleigh, southeast, and south, all day; equals 7 groups when on foot, 3 to 6 miles for each. Three separately on foot east, 2 to 5 hours; 2 in Overton Park 2 hours; and 1 in cruiser on river 2 hours in late afternoon. Total 67 party-hours. Austin Burdick, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Ben Coffey, Jr., Mary and Anna Davant, Pauline James, Luther Keeton, Lawrence Kent, Dr. Louis Leroy, Joe Mason, Jr., Dr. and Mrs. C. E. Moore, Alice Smith, Mrs. M. L. Torti, Maurice Torti, Jr., Robt. Tucker, Brother I. Vincent, Billy Walker, Ben Welch Jr., Antoinette Anderson, Parker Wright, and Neil Wyatt.——HICKORY FLAT, MISS., Jan. 1, 1942, 10:30 to 12 (1 mile southwest; stormy, with rain; flooded fields; gusty; observers separate); 2 to 4:30 (fair, one observer close in, one by car 7 miles on Hwy. No. 78, spending 1½ hours in woods at Spring Lakes, Myrtle); temp. 64° to 42°. Mr. and Mrs. Ben B. Coffey, Jr.——CHICKASAW FOREST:—Dec. 25, 7 to 1; overcast; ground frozen, then muddy; stiff wind, cold and damp at start; temp. 34° to 45°. Rain started at 1 p.m., stopped census. Lake La Joie area, Highway 100 to Bethel Church to Silerton (outside forest) and return on ridge to the east; Lake Placid. Observers together, 20 miles by auto, 2 on foot.—Ben B. Coffey, Jr. and Joe Mason, Jr. ——WHITE BLUFF:—Jan. 18, 1942, 8:30 to 3:30; part cloudy to overcast, rain at 3:30; light wind, 41°-62°. Montgomery Bell Park only, three parties, same routes covered past five censuses.—Conrad Jamison, Geo. Mayfield, Sr. and Jr., H. C. Monk, James Robins, H. S. Vaughn.——CLARKSVILLE:—Dec. 21, 7:15 to 4:15; fair, overcast in P.M.; calm, A.M., south wind in P.M.; temp. 32° to 65°. By car to Dunbar's Cave, Spring Creek, P. A. Meriwether farm, and Trahern's Branch. Second party on foot 8 miles along T. C. R. R. to Lock B with side trips to Hiett's Garden, Coke's Creek, Robbins' swamp, McAdoo Creek, Mark's Slough, and Gholson's. Total 14 party-hours—Alfred Clebsch, Sr., Edward Clebsch, Clarence Collier, Jr., and Dr. Chas. F. Pickering.——NASHVILLE:—Dec. 21, 6 to 5; clear in A.M. overcast in P.M.; ground bare; wind, very light; temp. 50° to 65°. Waterworks Bottom, Knapp Farm, Franklin Road, Overton Hills, Radnor Lake, Hillsboro and Hobbs Roads, Bellemeade, Warner Park, Hill-wood, Davidson and River Roads, Shelby Park, Trimble bottom, and two parties on Cumberland River. 25 observers in 12 parties; totals: 74 party-hours; 33 miles on foot.—Mr. and Mrs. B. H. Abernathy, Catherine Anderson, Mildred Berry, Paul K. Bryant, John Caldwell, John B. Calhoun, Jas. Church, Sam Clark, Jr., A. F. Ganier (compiler), Conrad Jamison, Jr., Mrs. F. C. Laskey, G. R. Mayfield, George Mayfield, Jr., Albert Marsh, Arthur McMurray, Ed McNish, Jas. Merritt, C. E. Pearson, J. A. Robins, J. M. Shaver, Vernon Sharp, Jr., and son, Edw. Schreiber, W. R. Spofford, Harry Tracy, H. S. Vaughn, and G. B. Woodring.—— MURFREESBORO:—Dec. 22, part cloudy; light wind; temp. 50°.—Dr. J. B. Black, Prof. George Davis, Robert Duckworth, H. O. Todd, Jr.——CARYVILLE:—Formerly listed as Norris; ready access to Norris Dam area prohibited this year; Dec. 27, 9 to 3; cloudy; light N. wind; temp. 33°-50°. Cove Creek Lake State Park (Caryville Lake).—W. M. Walker, Roy Wedekind, and Bill Yambert.——GREENEVILLE:—Dec. 26, 7:30 to 12. 1 to 4; clear; windy; temp. 52° to 55°. Reed farm along Roaring Fork Creek, Lick Creek, Bay's Mt. Observers together, 3 miles on foot, 20 by auto. Mrs. Ruth Reed

Nevius, Helen Reed.——GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK, TENN.:—Dec. 21, 6:15 to 4:30; clear in early morning, partly cloudy thereafter; ground bare, frozen at high altitudes, thawing in lowlands; wind mostly light, variable; temp. 33° to 63°. Same area as in past 4 years, circle of 7½ miles radius centering on Bull Head of Mt. LeConte, and including a section of the Tenn.-N.C. Divide from Siler's Bald to the Sawteeth; also the towns of Gatlinburg and Pigeon Forge, Tenn. Altitude range, 1200 to 6600 feet. 30 observers in 10 parties. Total hours afield, 76 (64 by foot, 12 by car); total party miles, 249 (67 by foot, 182 by car).—Chas. O. Baird, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Broome, Mary Ruth Chiles, Edw. J. Dougherty, Frelan Goddard, John J. Hay, Dr. and Mrs. Earl O. Henry, Albert E. Hyder, Mr. and Mrs. H. P. Ijams, Lawrence Isenberg, Kermit Jennings, Ann King, Mrs. Frank Leonhard, Dr. Henry Meyer, Mrs. Robt. Monroe, Elsie Morrell, S. A. Ogden, Mr. and Mrs. Walter B. Rohbock, Nat Smith, Dr. Gordon H. Tucker, Wm. M. Walker, Jr., Dorothy E. Williams, Wm. Yambert (Knoxville Chapter), Edwin L. Green, Jr., Joe F. Manley, and Arthur Stupka (National Park Service).——JOHNSON CITY: Dec. 28, 7:45 to 5:15; cloudy; ground bare; light E. wind; temp. 30° to 40°. Environs of town within 7½ miles radius, incl. Llewellyn Wood, Cox's Lake, Boone's Creek area, Horse Cove section of Cherokee National Forest, Sinking Creek area, Laurels Recreation area, Dry Creek to Milligan, Austin Springs and along Watauga River to South Watauga, South Watauga to town via Smalling Game Farm. Two parties; total 16 party-hours, 90 miles by car and afoot.—Ruby Doak, Walter Hendrix, Albert E. Hyder, Ann King, Robt. B. Lyle, Maxine McClain and Bruce P. Tyler.

# THE SEASON

MEMPHIS AREA:—The winter as a whole in this section of the state has been rather mild. Precipitation has been about normal but Memphis has not had the usual number of snows or cold weather. The mild conditions that prevailed, particularly until the first part of January, may have been responsible for the unusual records of species that normally winter farther south of here. The first of these reported was a female or immature Black and White Warbler in Overton Park on Dec. 20, by Brother I. Vincent. On the Christmas census on Dec. 21 this warbler was again seen by Coffey, Vincent, and the writer. It was seen again on Dec. 23 by the writer. By far the most unusual winter record was the presence of a Yellow-billed Cuckoo in Overton Park on Dec. 23. While walking along the bayou the familiar form of the Cuckoo flew off the ground near my feet, to the other side of the bayou and back into a small clump of bushes. The bird appeared in a very weakened condition for the only time it would fly was to escape actual capture at my hands. I nearly caught it twice but on the third attempt it flew behind a clump of bushes and was lost. I could not find it afterwards although a very thorough search was made for it. This Cuckoo normally winters as far north as Columbia and Venezuela. However, one was listed at Pilot Town, La., on Christmas Census, Dec. 26, 1941. On Dec. 23, also in Overton Park, I found two Orange-crowned Warblers, and on Dec. 30, Demett Smith and I found them again. On Dec. 26 Smith and I found a Blue-headed Vireo in the Wolf River bottoms at Payne Avenue. One was seen there again on Feb. 20. Both these species were observed at close range.——A Henslow's Sparrow was seen at Germantown by Burdick on Dec. 26 (1st winter record) and he saw 50 Lapland Longspurs near there on Jan. 3. At the same place on Jan. 25, Burdick recorded a Vesper Sparrow. A House Wren was recorded by Burdick and Mason at Mason's Dairy on Dec. 30, and Smith and I recorded one at Wolf River and Payne Avenue on Mar. 6. A Sharp-shinned Hawk was seen at Wolf River on Dec. 31 by Burdick, Mason, and the writer.——On Mar. 9 in Overton Park, new visitors appeared in the forms of three Pine Siskins. They were studied as close as 9 feet by Smith and myself and all identification marks were carefully noted. They were continually chattering among themselves. (Editor—2nd record). The first Purple Martins were reported Feb. 25, by both Mrs. Guth at Whitehaven, and Mrs. Hooper in Normal, south and east of town, respectively. The earliest previous record was Mar. 1.—A Chipping Sparrow was present in Overton Park on Mar. 17 and 18.—ROBERT TUCKER, Memphis.

NASHVILLE AREA:—Dec. 1, 1941 to Mar. 1, 1942. The season to date has progressed very slowly. Weather conditions have been relatively mild. February averaged slightly colder than normal. On Jan. 9 and Feb. 20, it snowed and remained on the ground in both cases about a week. Up to the present time there are few migration notes. On Dec. 7, Francis Lawrence had a Brown Thrasher at his home; this is very late. Dr. W. R. Spofford reported a Thrasher on Feb. 27. Mrs. F. C. Laskey reported a large flock of Bronzed Grackles in Percy Warner Park on Jan. 20. The group that observed them, all agreed that the sound made by the birds was not unlike that of a train passing in the distance. It was reported by Mr. H. C. Monk that the Grackles have not yet moved back onto their breeding grounds; in view of observations made in previous years they should be back on the breeding grounds by Mar. 1st. Robins are very common; various observers agree that they are far more numerous this year, than in other recent years. Mr. Monk says that for the first time in ten years the Robin outnumbers the Starling. The writer first noticed Robins in numbers on Jan. 9, on the Peabody College campus. Since that time they have occurred in ever increasing numbers. Mrs. Laskey reports that a flock of 40 Robins appeared for the first time in her yard on Jan. 12 and by Jan. 20 the flocks had increased to a size that the neighbors began to make telephone calls concerning the birds. Mr. A. F. Ganier on March 1st, reported a very large Robin-Blackbird roost and a week later succeeded in locating this roost 21 miles west of Nashville; his notes on this will be found in the Round Table.——The Mourning Dove has not come back in any numbers yet; Mr. Monk reported one, cooing, on Centennial Hill, Feb. 14, and has continued almost daily since. On Jan. 15, Mr. Ganier observed a pure white albino Dove in the yard across from his home on Woodlawn Drive. Radnor Lake still remains at a very low level. This possibly accounts for the scarcity of waterbird records this winter. Mr. Monk noted several Wilson's Snipe on Dec. 26 and Jan. 25.——Among the interesting Raptore notes are: an adult Bald Eagle observed near Ashland City, on the Cumberland River, by Bill Chambers, a Vanderbilt University student; Dr. Spofford reported seeing an Osprey near his home on Jan. 7. A Red-tailed Hawk nest has been found and several members of the Chapter hope to build a blind and make observations on hawk family life. An extremely dark (melanistic) Red-tail was observed at the steeplechase grounds in November and again on Jan. 24. Mr. Richard Watkins is studying the food habits of a pair of Great Horned Owls by making frequent visits to a nest and noting the remains of quarry brought in to the young. The nest is on a cliff above the river. A pair of these large owls has been observed by Dr. G. R. Mayfield near his camp on the Stone's River. The writer saw a Red-shouldered Hawk on Richland Creek, Feb. 26. According to Mr. Monk the dates the following birds began to sing were: Towhee, Jan. 14; Mockingbird, Jan. 15; Chickadee, Jan. 16; Cardinal, Jan. 12; and Bewick's Wren, Feb. 22. Myrtle Warblers and Cedar Waxwings have been more numerous than usual this winter, while there is a scarcity of White-throated Sparrows, Juncos, and Winter Wrens. Mrs. Laskey reports that by the middle of February one pair of Bluebirds had begun nest building, and that by the last of February in the Warner Park boxes, there were 4 or 5 complete nests; Dr. Vaughn had one complete nest, and Fred Weber had a complete nest. Mr. Monk on Jan. 20 observed Starlings carrying nesting material and on Jan. 23 he observed English Sparrows carrying nest material. On Feb. 18 he listed a Red-headed Woodpecker near Nashville; on Feb. 25 the writer observed one in Percy Warner Park and Mrs. Laskey reported one also. On this same date, during the course of a 27-mile bicycle ride with Geo. Mayfield, Jr., the writer listed 13 Sparrow Hawks. As of March 7, vegetation is very backward for the season.—CONRAD JAMISON, Nashville.

# THE ROUND TABLE

A LOON VISITS A CITY PARK:—A Loon was observed on Centennial Park Lake, Nashville on Nov. 27 and 30, 1941. Many waterfowl visitors have been recorded on this lake but this one was the prize of my twenty-five years watching. It was in full winter plumage and not at all conspicuous among the scores of captive fowl of many kinds. In comparison with the captive Canada Geese it seemed quite small and accordingly was carefully studied but I could not identify it as other than the common species. All other local records of Loons have been made at Radnor Lake with the exception of one killed on Hardscuffle pond Dec. 26, 1938, and recovered from hunters by Mrs. Tippens for the census on that date. The appearance of this large bird on any of our small ponds would be interesting enough, but its visit to a city park is a complete surprise.—HARRY C. MONK, Nashville.

NIGHTHAWK FEEDING BLITZ:—On the evening of Sept. 10, 1941, at about 9:30 P.M., I stood on the street corner in Johnson City, Tennessee, just across from the railroad station and witnessed one of the most interesting displays of maneuvering by a group of birds that I had ever seen. As I approached the intersection, my attention was attracted skyward by a number of "peeping" sounds. Much to my surprise, there before my eyes, only a few feet above the buildings, at least sixty immature and adult Nighthawks and approximately ten bats were really cutting up as they feasted upon the insects in this area. The Nighthawks would at times skim the tops of the street lamps in their pursuit and dives for moths, which seemed to fill the air. These moths, no doubt, were attracted by the many bright street lights and the heat radiating from them, since there was a very noticeably quick drop in temperature on this evening. At times the bats appeared to follow very closely the Nighthawks in their circles and semicircles.——As I stood and enjoyed this grand performance I was very much surprised at the pedestrians, who paid not one bit of attention, nor showed any appreciation of the good work our feathered allies were doing in their nightly war upon insects,—one of man's greatest enemies!—ALBERT J. MARSH, Tennessee Game and Fish Division, Nashville.

A VERY LATE ROBIN BROOD:—On Oct. 5, 1941 a fledgling Robin with speckled breast and short tail was found in company with its parent. The tail was about half grown out, indicating the bird had left the nest about ten days earlier, say Sept. 25. My previous latest dates for broods leaving the nest were Aug. 15, 1937, and Aug. 16, 1938, so the present case is over a month later. Robins are common breeding birds in the parks and residential sections of Nashville and have been for at least twenty-five years. I have followed the nesting of the large Centennial Park colony for many seasons and consider this record most exceptional. In fact, any brood leaving a nest after August first is noteworthy.—HARRY C. MONK, Nashville.

NOTES ON A ROBIN ROOST:—There are few more thrilling experiences within the realm of bird study than a visit to a great bird roost. I might add that it is an experience which our friends in the North and East may share only in a minor degree for when our gregarious wintering birds move northward, the flocks become depleted as the birds drop out enroute at their last year's summer homes. A gathering of several hundred thousand Grackles and other blackbirds, Starlings and Robins at a communal roost, has often been recorded in the Nashville area and one that is now existent is described further on.

Robins almost invariably each year come into the state from the south during January, by the last of February are quite abundant, and all except breeding birds are usually gone by mid-March. While here, they feed largely upon hackberries, this being the most abundant tree in this section. January and February of 1941, however, were made remarkable by the fact that no Robin migration whatever transpired and the only birds of this species recorded were summer resident pairs which came early in March and remained to breed. There was a shortage of hackberries, it is true, but this did not fully explain matters and it was thought that some catastrophe might have befallen them. This year we are happy to note that they are with us again in more than normal numbers.

Recently, observing flocks going west each afternoon and returning at sunrise each morning, I determined to locate their roost. On March 1 I drove to a point 8 miles west of the city and at an hour before sundown the flocks began to pass westward at an altitude of about 1,000 feet. I followed for some miles but their goal was evidently much further on so I returned home. Six days later I had opportunity to resume the search and with Dr. W. R. Spofford drove west along the River Road for 14 miles and awaited the flight. Presently they came, still flying high toward the setting sun, leaving the river bottoms at times and cutting across the timbered hills. For more than an hour fast moving flocks were continually in sight. Most of the flocks were of Robins but there were also hundreds of flocks of Starlings and Grackles, with a lesser number of Red-wings and perhaps Rusty Blackbirds as well. At 18 miles we found that some of the tiring birds had alighted in the woods but we noted that after they had rested they moved on. We passed on to the Ashland City Bridge across the Cumberland, then took the Charlotte road southward 1½ miles to where it crossed Big Bluff Creek. We found that we had now passed beyond the roost for the last and low-flying flocks were headed eastward up the wooded valley. The roost was finally located on the ridge at the head of this valley in cut-over hardwood timber land wherein there was a jungle of second growth. It might have seemed a coincidence that the roost was located within the 9-foot wire fence that enclosed the State's 3000-acre deer farm, along which fence there hung signs which read "No Hunting, Keep Out." The initial roost may not have been within this enclosure but perhaps a few early raids by native nimrods drove them to where they had finally found this haven. And to this haven there repair each night, for 25 miles and more, practically all of the above named birds within this range. (Maps show that this roost is 20 miles from the Nashville courthouse.) It will be interesting to observe whether or not this site will be chosen in succeeding years. Very few people live in this area and there are thousands of acres of rough, hilly, timbered lands surrounding the place. On March 10th, a group of T.O.S. members visited the roost and noted that the last birds came in at 7:05 p.m. Deputy game wardens were patrolling two other roosts during the first week in March; one in a cedar wood near Smyrna, 18 miles southeast of Nashville, and one near Watertown, 40 miles due east. Doubtless there are others too.—ALBERT F. GANIER, Nashville.

ROBIN ROOST NEAR CHATTANOOGA:—(The following interesting account is contained in a letter of February 12, 1942, to Dr. W. F. Spofford.—Editor). Late yesterday afternoon I visited one of the most interesting Robin roost that has been mine to see since these birds used to go to the bamboo thickets on the Chickamauga when I was a boy. This roost is located about 30 miles from Chattanooga on the part of the Cumberlands known as Walden's Ridge, 6 miles east of Dunlap, and a mile from Lewis' Chapel, Tenn. I judge the roost covers ten or more acres of second growth mountain pines, standing some 10 or 15 feet tall, as thick as the hairs on a dog's back, so dense that it was with great difficulty that I could press my way through as a wedge. The birds began coming about 45 minutes or an hour before dark, and as the native mountaineers declare, there seems to be fully a "blue million of them." As I crawled into their haunts after the most of them got settled down the roar of wings sounded like a waterfall. I learned from the natives that this is the birds' third winter to roost here. The fact is, I did not know of a Robin roost of this dimension in Tennessee.—ROBERT SPARKS WALKER, 808 Greenwood, Ave., Chattanooga.

FEATHERY ODDS AND ENDS:—The Tennessee River, below the dam at Pickwick, is a favored spot for Gulls, mostly the Herring variety. There are always a few there, and on a number of occasions I have seen hundreds of them feeding as close up as they could get to the falls. The rougher the water the better the Gulls seem to like it.——A farmer near Corinth recently noticed two birds fighting in his barn-yard. They were first in the air, then fell to the ground. When the farmer approached close to the place, one bird flew away; the other remained, dead. It was a female Cardinal. The farmer picked up the dead bird and placed it on top of a fence post close by. Soon the other one returned and began pecking and tearing the dead body. The farmer shot the killer; it turned out to be a Migrant Shrike. The Shrike had pecked out the brains of the Cardinal. Two years ago this January, I found my first Red-breasted Nuthatch; in a small pine lot five miles from town. This January I found another one, my second, in the same place. The bird is very rare here.——For the past two years my winter bird hikes have been noticeably dull, due to the scarcity of birds. It has been difficult to get any sort of satisfactory list. But my luck changed Saturday, Jan. 24. In Tuscumbia bottom, in mid-morning, I found birds in larger numbers than I had found before in a long, long time. Over a space of half a mile, up and down the creek, I flushed a thousand Robins. They fed in a corn field near by and in the woods, too. Hackberries, small red haws, evergreen holly, and deciduous holly, grass and weed seed were abundant. Flickers, a variety of sparrows, Chewinks, Myrtle Warblers, Bluebirds, Brown Thrashers, Kinglets, Titmice, and blackbirds were abundant. Overhead half a dozen hawks, as best I could tell Marsh and Red-shouldereds, called shrilly and almost continuously.——Fox Sparrows scratched in the leaves, chicken-like, except that they used both feet at the same time; a bird that bears all the marks of a truly wild Sparrow. Several of them sang a few short weak notes; and the Robins too were singing their spring songs. ——No doubt every bird lover harbors the wish that some day he might find a bird never before discovered and catalogued—the remotest of possibilities. Two or three times in fifteen years my own hopes have risen a degree or two, only to fall back to normal within a brief moment. On the hike of which I now write, I did have another experience that has puzzled me. Myrtle Warblers were feeding in a small deciduous holly on the side of a slough; many other birds were near; all active. I was on the opposite side of the slough, some fifty feet away. I noticed a small grayish bird in the tree, what I first thought to be a Myrtle. Then there appeared too many white markings for that; with the aid of my glasses I saw distinctly a narrow white ring running all the way round the neck? And it was not a common Myrtle, nor any other probable species that I could think of at the moment. The next afternoon I went back to the exact spot and remained an hour, but the birds had gone almost to the last one. I can only hope that it was nothing more serious than an optical illusion. I do not "collect birds"; hence, if by some remote chance some day I should actually find something new, I would have no proof. But to say the least of it my bird would still live to increase his kind.——A Goshawk, the first I have ever identified positively, sat atop a small tree, a hundred yards from the road. His blue-black body and white underparts made a most conspicuous mark. —No more beautiful combination of colors than those that mark the female Chewink. Not as bright as some others, but woodsy, and wild and typical of birddom at its best.——The male Cardinal remains the perfect bird—song, beauty, fine manners; everything. Generally plentiful, but never common.—BENJ. R. WARRINER, Corinth, Miss.

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*"The simple truth about birds is interesting enough,
it is not necessary to go beyond it."*

PLEASE NOTIFY THE SECRETARY OF A CHANGE IN ADDRESS

Generally, the March issue is a light number altho the census tables make the actual work heavier. One reason for a small issue is that we cannot estimate the amount of money available for printing and mailing costs each year until after the March issue has reminded most of us to remember *The Migrant.* Hence, we hope that the extra expense of this larger number will not be expended unsuccessfully on too many to whom we extend the courtesy of sending this issue. Naturally, this size will have to be balanced with others to follow, so that the total number of pages each year is about the same, or by additional contributions, such as the $10 recently sent by the Knoxville Chapter (Thank you!). It might become necessary to combine the June and September issues, again giving us a large number. This has another advantage of lightening your editor's work. At the spring meeting the report of Secretary-Treasurer Clebsch will help us decide. The present editor will not be able to handle a June issue. Perhaps, someone will volunteer to do so. Please continue to send articles to the present address to facilitate the task of anyone that does. Contributors to "The Season" will hear from us at the proper time but you who make our magazine possible please consider this as a personal solicitation. We again want to sincerely thank those who so industriously contributed to the wren article herewith, and the authors of the other interesting articles and notes. Also, particularly, Mrs. Coffey, as the typing burden was unusually heavy.

## IN THE SERVICE

It's now Cadet Harold Elphingstone with the address of: A.C.R.P., Squadron A, Brooks Field, Texas. Another former Memphis Scout leader adding new birds to his life-list, but in a different zone, is Ensign Fred T. Carney, U. S. Coast Guard Cutter "North Star," care Postmaster, New York, N. Y. While in Boston, Fred visited Franklin McCamey,—the two worked together in Memphis bird work for many years. Dr. Earl O. Henry, past officer in the T.O.S. and past president of the Knoxville Dental Society is now in the Marine Corps at Parris Island, S. C.

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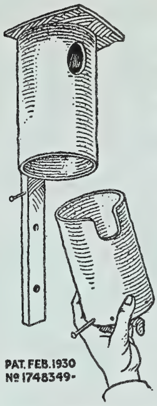

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WINTER RECORDS OF THE BLACK AND WHITE WARBLER:—This species winters from the southeastern tip of Texas to northern South America, and in Florida, the Bahamas, and West Indies. Christmas census lists from southern Georgia regularly record 1 to 4 individuals. The recording of one at Memphis on Dec. 20, 21, and 23, 1941, was thought to be exceptional. However, we find that Harry C. Monk has recorded the species at Nashville. *Wilson Bulletin* (1924, 36 (3): 138-139). On Dec. 3, near the Centennial Park boathouse at Nashville, he approached to within six feet of one. On Jan. 1, 1924, what was thought to be the same individual was seen near West End and 25th Avenues. Mr. Monk's latest date of normal departure for the species was Oct. 7, the return occurring in late March.—For adjacent areas he supplies the following: Georgia—one in the Athens region, Jan 14, 1923, by Burleigh (1938); one on Jan. 31, 1925, Richmond County (Augusta) by Dr. Irvine Phinizy (Murphy, 1937); by Norman Giles in Piedmont Park, Atlanta, Dec. 31, 1930, and Dec. 22, 1932, one each (Greene, 1933). South Carolina—one in Charleston, Dec. 1, 1906 (Wayne, 1910). Massachusetts—Dec. 5—no data (Forbush, 1929.) New York City Region—2 November records (Griscom, 1923).—A perusal of Christmas census lists recorded since 1925 show no records for the South except for Florida, southern Georgia, and southeastern Texas, included above in the regular winter range. The two exceptions are our current record and one recorded Dec. 28, 1941, at Texarkana, Ark. The remainder of that bird count appears to be in line except for the record of 19 Boat-tailed Grackles. No details are given for the two unusual records.—BEN B. COFFEY, JR., Memphis.

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DEVOTED TO TENNESSEE BIRDS

Published by
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# NESTING OF THE PEREGRINE FALCON IN TENNESSEE

*By* WALTER R. SPOFFORD

The falcon eyries in Tennessee constitute, in general, the southern and western border of the breeding range of the Peregrine, Falcon (*falco peregrinus anatum*) in the Appalachian system. The nesting sites may be divided somewhat arbitrarily into the following types: *mountain eyries,* remote sites on open cliffs in the high peak region of the Great Smoky Mountains; *canyon eyries,* on deeply recessed ledges of the sandstone escarpments lining the rim and canyons of the Cumberland Plateau; and *river bluff sites,* on relatively low bluffs overlooking the waters of the Tennessee River, and its major tributaries. *Tree sites,* the broken off tops of giant cypress trees in extensive swamps, occur along the Mississippi River but these do not belong to the Appalachian system.

The writer is attempting to study the breeding status and nesting success of the falcon in each of the above nesting regions. The data collected up to the present is too fragmentary for a complete report, and the following account is of a first attempt to visit some of the sites.

In April 1942, Mr. Richard Herbert, secretary of the Hawk and Owl Society, New York, visited the writer, and a short trip was first made to the Cumberland Plateau. Two of the eyrie sites discovered by Mr. Ganier in the Pickett Forest region were visited, one of these now being extinct, (occupied however by a pair of Kestrels, the American Sparrow Hawk), and no birds were seen at the other site. The actual site of the latter eyrie was not discovered, however, and it is possible that the birds were overlooked. A new eyrie was discovered in a deep canyon rimmed with spectacular cliffs, and there was every indication that young were in the nest, although time prevented a visit to the recessed nesting ledge.

The well known eyrie near Fall Creek Falls was visited, and no sign of the falcons was seen. Falcons have not been reported at this picturesque gorge since 1939. The site at Falling Waters, near Chattanooga and mentioned by Rhoads in 1894, revealed no signs of occupancy. A hitherto unreported eyrie in the Signal Mountain massif was examined from a distance with field glasses. Although no birds were seen, the typical peregrine perch pattern on the extensively whitewashed cliff left little doubt that the eyrie was active. No birds were seen at a site in the Mullins Cove region, but birds were reported present at a nearby eyrie, in March.

In a cliff-lined gorge in north-western Georgia an eyrie was found on April 23, 1942 with at least three half-grown "eyasses" on the nest ledge beneath a great overhang of rock. The whole forest area above and below the eyrie had recently been burned out, and smoke still hung in the gorge, but the eyrie was apparently undamaged. Although falcons have been suspected of breeding in Georgia, it is believed that this is the first actual record.

The most interesting find of the trip was the rediscovery of a Peregrine's eyrie in the extensive swamp forests at Reelfoot Lake on April 20. The nest was located by hearing the "warning-wail" cry of the old falcon, soon followed by the familiar "scolding-cackle" as she circled overhead. The actual nesting tree was not discovered until after nearly two days of wading through the swamp during which our only clues were occasional "long wail" calls of the falcon, and sometimes a glimpse of her perched in the sun on a lofty cypress snag well above the forest crown level. There we could note her unusually colorful plumage, and see her dark "helmet" head turning from side to side as she watched a Cormorant, a Wards Heron, and more frequently an American Egret passing beneath her. They paid no attention to her, and she showed no indication of defending her territory from their intrusion. No sign of the tiercel (male) was seen the first day, but the falcon (female) once or twice gave the conversational "*eee-chup*" note,, indicating that the tiercel was in view. Beneath one tall cypress snag many feathers of several varieties (Green Heron, Blue Jay, Grackle) were floating on the dark water.

The nesting tree was a giant dead cypress broken off sixty feet above water level, in a dense forest of mixed woods, standing in two feet of water. Several other similar stubs stood nearby, and the actual eyrie was identified when food call of the young was heard. The open hollow top resembled a hugh cask half filled with a variety of debris, dead wood, small bones, and many feathers. A live tree two inches in diameter growing in the open top furnished shade for the two eyas falcons which were just under four weeks of age. The young were banded and photographed and other pictures were made of the stub and surroundings. It is believed that this is the first time that a nest of the Peregrine Falcon in a hollow tree has ever been examined in situ.

The food remains in the eyrie consisted of wilderness species entirely although pigeons were numerous in a small city not ten miles away. (At wilderness eyries in the northern Appalachain chain, remains of pigeons are almost always in evidence.) No trace of Egret remains were found although the site is within a few miles of an extensive breeding colony of these birds. However, a pair of Great Horned Owls nested in a similar stub only two hundred yards away, and there was some indication that the owls had occasionally fed on Egrets.

The dominant raptores of this swamp forest are the Red-shouldered Hawk and the Barred Owl, both being numerous, and it seemed strange to see the Peregrine, whose usual raptore associates are the Red-tailed Hawk and the Great-Horned Owl, in such humble company. However, a male Red-tail did come once by the Falcon's nesting tree and the pair of Great horned Owls nested nearby. The two young owls, having recently left their nest, were being mobbed almost incessantly by raucous Crows and angry Red-shouldered Hawks. Attempts were made to locate another site less than ten miles away which was in use in 1932 (Ganier, *Migrant*, 1932, p. 29) but no success was attained in the short time remaining.

Another tree nest was visited on May 11, 1942 by Mr. Roger T. Peterson, who believed that young were present in the dead cypress top. This nest, in northeastern Louisiana, is the first recorded breeding of the Peregrine Falcon in that state, and is more than one hundred miles further south than any other recorded eyrie in eastern North America. The writer is attempting to gather more information on the extent of a little known tree-nesting population of Peregrine Falcons in the cypress swamps of the Mississippi River. The presence of falcons in the swamp forests along the Mississippi River and its tributaries was discovered in the late 1870's by Goss, and Ridgway, and again in the 1930's by Ganier, and Bellrose. It is not surprising to find peregrines nesting along such a major waterway and flyway as the Mississippi, but their presence is definitely conditioned by the availability of suitable nesting trees with a spacious hollow top, in a protected wilderness situation.

During our April trip, no visits were made to the high mountain sites in East Tennessee, or to river bluff sites. The latter type of eyrie is undoubtedly the most vulnerable to human predation, and of the half dozen such sites known to the writer, only one or two are still active, few or no young ever leaving these nests. No eyries have been reported from the variously extensive river bluffs west of the Cumberland plateau in Tennessee, although farmers near such cliffs describe gray "bluff hawks" as formerly having nested there. The most southwesterly of such sites, at Florence, Alabama, is now extinct, although one bird was seen near there in June, 1940. High mountain sites, on the other hand, seem to be relatively successful, if one can judge from the scanty data at hand. Several of these sites are in the Great Smoky Mountain National Park, and authorities there have shown a commendable hesitancy in disclosing information concerning the breeding status of the park falcons.

Canyon Eyries, in the Cumberland Plateau, are thinly spread over a wide area. The excellent and extensive cliffs walling the numerous gorges form unmatched environment, but the scanty supply of flying food is probably the main restrictive factor. A tremendous series of gorges has only one pair of falcons, while a similar but much smaller area in New York supports five pairs. Each active canyon eyrie, however, seems to produce a normal complement of young, in contrast to the situation around New York, where some pairs are non-breeders and there is a low incidence of nesting success. Whatever fringe of the range factors may be active in this area, they apparently do not adversely affect the individual nesting success. Perhaps a most significant limiting factor is the great prevalence of extensive forest fires throughout the Cumberland Plateau area every spring which probably cut down severely on the small bird population of the area.

NASHVILLE, TENN., August, 1942.

# A WEEK IN WEST TENNESSEE

*By* ALBERT F. GANIER and ALFRED CLEBSCH

During the week or June 15-20, 1942, we had decided to investigate certain ornithologically interesting localities in West Tennessee, a section neglected by us in recent years in favor of mountain areas eastward. Monday morning, the 15th, found the rear of our coupe packed with hiking clothes, hip boots, maps, lunch materials, and various collecting paraphernalia and we were glad to be on our way for a week in the woods and fields.

Car window lists for each day were kept and constant practice of naming perched or flying birds, made these lists quite comprehensive as to species and their relative numbers. Our first stop was on the north approach to the Dover bridge across the Cumberland, where we had found a large colony of Cliff Swallows nesting on May 16, 1937. There were none present but when we stopped here on our return, June 20, we found that about six pairs had arrived and nests were under construction on the concrete girders that support the bridge floor. Reaching the Tennessee River, we found that Bronzed Grackles were again nesting in the steel beams across the top of the bridge spans, this being a wide divergance from their usual nesting site.

Looking up and down the broad flood plain of the Tennessee River, we found the scene radically changed since our last visit, for in preparing the valley to become the pool of the great Kentucky dam, all trees had been cut and brush burned. We looked with regret on the destruction of specialized habitats which had been provided by cypress grown swamps and lagoons, where such species as Swainson's Warbler, Wood Duck, Yellow-crowned Night Heron and other unusual and rare species were wont to dwell. We knew that no similar habitats were available in the valley of the Tennessee and that these birds will become rare in that region.

Famed old Sulphur Well, near Paris, with its unique tupelo swamp, had been scheduled for our next stop and we were fearful that the clearing had reached westward up the Big Sandy Valley to this point but on arrival, found it had not. A handsome Red-tailed Hawk soared above the doomed forest there and four Wood Ducks flew down the valley. Steady rain had now set in and after waiting awhile, during which time we watched La. Water Thrushes playing in roadway puddles, we decided to travel southward to McNairy County, at the Mississippi line, and stop at Sulphur Well on the return trip.

South of Jackson next morning, some acres of marshy ground, grown with tule-sedge and alder bushes, looked as though they might be attractive to Short-billed Marsh Wrens and other marsh loving species. Our search revealed only Redwings, Northern Yellow-throats, Catbirds and the usual common birds. Several miles further on, an artesian well had formed a fresh cat-tail marsh along the roadside so we stopped again, donned our hip boots and waded in. We were at once besieged overhead by Redwing Blackbirds and within a few minutes we found ten of their nests containing eggs or small young. A luckless Crow flapped lazily toward the scene of the excitement and was promptly set upon by the angry Redwings who chased him away much faster than he had come. On other days we saw both Kingbirds and Redwings chasing Crows and the large hawks, sometimes boldly pursueing them for nearly a mile.

At the old "cotton town" of Selmer we stopped for mid-day lunch and a few miles further south we halted to look over one of the ancient graveyards where quaint customs still prevail. Many of the graves have little shelters built over them and most of them are decorated with all manner of broken china and glass-ware, mussel shells as well as the large fossil sea shells which are found in this area. At Ramer, we turned westward and found patches of short-leafed pine becoming more numerous and finally, along the high ridges just east of the Hatchie River, we came into perhaps the finest growth of this tree in West Tennessee. This location had been our objective for here, in the late summer of 1939, John B. Calhoun, Alfred Clebsch, Jr., and John Pond had spent some weeks and had found and collected the only Red-cockaded Woodpeckers as yet recorded in West Tennessee.

The open pine woods gave us a refreshing change of habitat and we spent the afternoon listing and observing the birds to be found there. As had been expected, we found the Pine Warbler present but more common than anticipated. The major number of them were young of the year and they had not as yet donned the yellow and green plumage of maturity. Acadian Flycatchers, Yellow-throated Vireos, Summer Tanagers, Florida Blue Jays, Florida Nuthatches,, Chipping Sparrows and many others, were common among these tall pines. A patch of brush land revealed Cardinals, Prairie Warblers, Field Sparrows, Indigo Buntings and several Bachmans Sparrows.

The next morning we returned and then motored by a side road about two miles north to the Ben Carr pines, which consist of a virgin forest of these trees covering more than a hundred acres of ridge. It was here that the above mentioned party had found the Red-cockaded and here we searched for them the better part of the day but without success. We also kept on the lookout for Brown-headed Nuthatches, a species which is also found only among pines. A fair list of birds was made here, including a handsome Pileated Woodpecker that marched up a tall tree in full view and a beautifully "pied" second year male of the Summer Tanager, which was collected. The partly green and yellow plumage of this specimen was dappled with red.

In a nest of the Indigo Bunting there were three eggs of this species and one of a Cowbird. Not far away a pair of Kentucky Warblers were found devotedly carrying food to a young Cowbird, apparently unmindful of such of their own young as may have fledged with it. During the late afternoon we motored northwest to Bolivar for lodging and supper. Enroute we stopped at swampy woodlands to collect a specimen of the elusive Northern Yellow-throat, to watch one of the only four Red-headed Woodpeckers seen west of the Tennessee, and in front of a farm house to look into a Shrike's nest full of young. At a roadside orchard stand we "took aboard" a gallon jug of excellent cider for thirsty hours ahead.

Early the next morning, at a 15 acre buttonbush marsh on the Jackson Highway a mile north of Bolivar, we spent an interesting hour, even though, aside from Redwings and Green Herons, no marsh birds were to be found here. Some miles north of Somerville we stopped at a two acre shallow pond grown up in willows and large buttonwood bushes. Here we found a considerable number of Redwings and Bronzed Grackles nesting above the water, about 20 nests of each being found. The Redwings nests held eggs and young while only three of the Grackle nests still held young. A Barn Swallow near

Covington was considered a rare record for this section as was also a Phoebe which had its nest under one of the long concrete bridges. A lone American Egret was noted at a roadside pond.

In listing the roadside birds from Somerville, thru Covington and on to Ripley we noted considerable difference between that and any corresponding stretch in Middle Tennessee. For example, Shrikes were along every mile of road, Dickcissels were numerous, while Mockingbirds, Meadowlarks and Doves, were other species that were more abundant. On the other hand, some species, such as Barn Swallows, Phoebes, Starlings and Towhees were practically absent. Of Starlings, we observed only one bird, this near Covington. Our only Towhee for the trip was a specimen of the Alabama Towhee taken at Sulphur Well, just west of the Tennessee River. In this connection, Calhoun's group found no Towhees during the summer of 1939 in Hardeman and McNairy Counties and our findings therefore tally with Ben B. Coffey's recent report on the scarcity of this bird as a breeder in West Tennessee.

Open Lake was to be our next objective and we arrived there late in the afternoon of June 18th. This lake of about 1400 acres lies in the heavily timbered bottom lands of the Mississippi River and is unprotected by levees from floods. A number of summer camps have been built along the shore closest to the highway and they are unique in that each is built upon a raft of hugh cypress logs which float upon the surface when the big river is on a rampage. From genial Mr. Morris, who owns the fish dock, we engaged a good batteau and secured some information about the water birds to be found there. Paddling out into the lake and then along the shores, we were first attracted by a few Least Terns which were ceasely fishing the surface in their elastic and erratic flight. Nearly every headlong dive in the water seemed to produce a tiny fish. They nest on the river sandbars a few miles westward. An American Egret swung by us along the cypress bordered edge and a brace of Wood Ducks flew swiftly overhead. About the tree trunks, Prothonotary Warblers were conspiculously common while overhead, Cerulean Warblers proclaimed that they were present in equal number. A La. Water Thrush, calling from the low wet woods, made us wonder where he could find an elevated location in which to build its nest.

Next morning we packed lunch and equipment in the boat for a full days exploration. Our map showed that the "East Arm" could be entered thru a chute or slough and this appealed to us. Poling and paddling our way thru this channel we were soon attracted by a song which could be none other than that of a Swainson's Warbler yet markedly different from that given by this bird in Middle Tennessee. We waded ashore in our boots and for an hour played hide and seek with this will-o-the-wisp of the swamps. It sang all about us, at as close as fifty feet while walking about on the ground or slipping among the fallen tree limbs, yet only once during this time did it present itself to open view. Birds were numerous and kept us adding to our list card frequently. Finally, our boat nozed its way out of the chute and into the deep rippling waters of the East Arm of Open Lake. Entirely surrounding this narrow, half mile long lake is a fringe of stately bald cypress while out in the clear water stand others which sunk with the land when these lakes were formed. They have grown no taller but their bases have swollen to great size and become deeply fluted from the muddy bottom to well above the waterline. A more beautiful lake would be difficult to find and the camera was brought into play to record the picturesque scenes.

Several more Egrets winged their way back and forth and a Ward's Heron, surprised at its vigil, arose with a startled squawk as though humans were rare visitors here. Ahead of us on one of the low "waterlogged" cypress trees were two heavy robust birds, one black, one gray. The glasses revealed their identity and as the boat neared the adult and immature Double-crested Cormorants pitched off into rapid flight. After seeing these birds, the Ward's Heron and the Egrets, we surmised that a small "cranetown" probably existed in some of the cypress grown sloughs of the vast forest about the lake. The nearest such breeding ground that we know of at the present time is the great "cranetown" on Reelfoot Lake, some 50 miles to the north.

An Osprey next appeared and after patrolling the lake a bit, dived into the water with a splash but we could not see with what success. Of considerable interest to us was the presence of three Tree Swallows that were doubtlessly breeding here for there were woodpecker holes in the dead cypress snags to serve as nesting sites. Numerous Sycamore Warblers, including young, were among the cypress trees which grew in the water. We were loath to leave and it was nearly dark when we finally drew our boat on the wharf.

The following morning found us journeying eastward with Sulphur Well again our goal. After numerous roadside stops we reached it shortly after lunch and donning our rubber boots waded in the extensive swamp. As on other visits, we were again impressed with the unique beauty of the place. The water, like clear thin coffee, was studded as far as we could see with tall straight tupelo trees, each rising from hollow, bell-shaped bases, such as gnomes and dwarfs would find ideal for their revels. Patches of golden sunlight trickled down thru the dense green dome overhead, playing upon the surface made irridescent with pollen from the water plants which grew there. The Prothonotary's yellow flashes darting thru the stillness, the great Pileated Woodpecker calling as though to wake up an enchanted princess, made us feel that we should like to tarry long and see what mysterious things might yet transpire within this magic setting. We pointed our way to the heronry, which we had located here on March 14, 1937 and presently were apprised of its nearness by what sounded like the barking of a pack of dogs. It proved to be the young of the herons, some of which were already out of the nests. Counting the nests as well as we could among the tupelo leaves we judged there were about thirty in all, about the same as on our first visit. We do not know if these birds are the Great Blue Heron or the paler Ward's Heron, which latter race is the form nesting on Reelfoot Lake. This will be their last season for by spring, Sulphur Well swamp will be obliterated. A Yellow-crowned Night Heron was seen but its nest was not located.

We stopped at the hundred year old artesian well for sulphur water and found it gushing out its usual copious stream. We noted the great oaks spreading their shade over the grassy ridge where the rural folk have gathered on holidays for generations, then bidding the place adieu we resumed our journey home ward, a bit worn but well satisfied with the results of our trip. We prepared a number of study skims from which to determine the range or presence of certain subspecies and our consolidated list showed a total of eighty-eight different species of birds observed.

NASHVILLE, TENN. (A. F. G.) AND CLARKSVILLE, TENN. (A. C.)

# NESTING OBSERVATIONS FOR 1942 a la BIRD BANDING

### *By* AMELIA R. LASKEY

Each season from March through August, my interest, in addition to trapping at home, centers on a search for nests, observation of their progress, and banding of the young. Aside from the inspiration and keen pleasure these trips afield bring to a nature enthusiast with an inquiring mind, they have embodied research with certain major objectives: 1. To obtain accurate data on length of incubation and nest-occupancy periods. 2. To obtain information on the dispersal of young through recoveries of banded nestlings.

Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D. C. (formerly Biological Survey) will not furnish bands for *promiscuous* banding of nestlings but young may be banded in the nest at stations where systematic trapping is practiced and in the field when scientific studies are in progress. It is obviously necessary to use care in this type of work so that nests will not be disturbed.

For the records a loose leaf book and envelopes of 3x5 inch cards are carried in the field; a page in the book is used for each Bluebird box in Warner Parks and a card for each of the other nests found. For computing incubation and nest-occupancy periods, it is necessary to know when the first egg is laid. Then daily visits to the nest are required during the egg-laying period, after incubation has progressed about 10 days, and during the remainder of the time until all young leave. Data is usuable only from successful nests.

This season little was added to my short list of incubation-nest-occupancy data but I banded several hundred nestlings, found some unusual nests, and compiled other information on life history.

Because the sub-zero weather of January killed many shrubs and vines that are normally evergreen, there was a dearth of nest sites this spring. In spite of this handicap, nesting began early. On March 15 Mourning Doves and Robins were amicably gathering nest material in a corner of our shrub border while building in trees 20 feet apart. The Dove began incubating March 18 and the Robin a few days later. Another Dove, near Warner Park, had completed her set of 2 about the 21st. From the first nest, 1 squab fledged April 18; from the other, 2 on April 21. A Redeyed Towhee laid the first egg of 3 on March 27 in an unusually high early nest. It was 6 feet 9 inches up in a small cedar. On March 28 a Phoebe was incubating her full set of 5. By March 22 a pair of Brown Thrashers had completed a nest 5 feet up in the center of a leafless syringa shrub—very conspicuous—and had started laying March 28. A Carolina Chickadee began her set of 7 also on March 28 in a nest box at home. She practiced the usual cunning trick of this species, pulling material over the eggs each day after laying. To a casual observer, the nest would appear incomplete. When incubation started she sat closely and neglected to cover them during her brief morning and evening abscences. On March 30 a Bewick Wren laid 4 of her 7 eggs in a nest built under porch eaves in Warner Park.

The earliest Mockingbird egg was laid March 28, the 3 young hatching April 12. This year in April I found three areas where nests of this strongly territorial species were built rather close together. At my home three pairs occupied 200x300 feet; at the home of Fred Webber, Jr. (suburban), three pairs nested in a diagonal strip 100x300 feet; in Percy Warner Park near the home of a workman, three pairs built along a 500 ft. line. In the latter location the middle area was the scene of much excitement between the males as the females watched from the sidelines. Later nests were all farther apart.

Among the 43 Mockingbird nests examined this year, only 2 contained 5 egg sets while last year (1941) there were 11 out of 41 or 26.8 per cent. My six year old resident Mockingbird "Abe" had 3 successful nests for 1942. The first set contained only 2 eggs. Among 16 nests of the Cardinal, 4 in April and 1 in June had 1 Cowbird egg each. All parasitized nests had less than the usual complement of 3 Cardinal eggs.

Bachman Sparrow nests are difficult to find. There are only three or four Nashville records. Males may be heard singing in Warner Parks' meadows from April to August but on May 3 I located my first nest of this species with 2 eggs (complete set 4). It was built on the ground beside a tiny buckbush on a hillside near a road. As I approached the roofed nest, the incubating bird left it but instead of flying, she moved quickly along the ground for several yards, stopping in the road under the car to watch me. The nest was robbed.

The first of May an unusual nest of the Field Sparrow was found in the Park on the ground in a grassy fence row, roofed like the Bachman Sparrow nest with a set of 5 eggs being incubated. May 9th four had just hatched but the fate of the 5th egg is unknown for all were taken by a predator. A late nest was found elsewhere built 2½ feet up in the outer twigs of a boxwood shrub from which 3 young left in early August. This cup-shaped nest was nearly 3 inches deep. In Warner Parks Chipping Sparrows are abundant. One may see fierce fights among them in early spring over nesting territory. This year by April 13 four eggs were being incubated. The young of the last nest found this season left on July 31.

On July 2 a brood of Chimney Swifts was banded from the lower part of a chimney of a Warner Park house. As often happens, the nest had fallen but the young were raised on a ledge above the fireplace. Of particular note is the record of one of the adults which was caught in the house during the nesting period. It had been banded at Ward Belmont Schools in April, 1940.

Two nighthawk nestlings were banded on the roof of a three story building on Peabody Campus on July 21 where Arthur McMurray had found two pairs incubating earlier in the season. He banded 3 young that apparently were running together on June 6. As I ascended the roof, a parent was brooding the two late nestlings of different sizes but it dragged itself across the gravel roof to a parapet where it watched with snarling noises the banding of the young. They were very still until touched then they also started the snarling with wide open mouth just like the parent. The unhatched egg of an early set was found attached to the roof by a bit of exposed pitch.

Bluebirds began nest building in mid-February; egg laying started in early March. On March 14 four nests contained 5, 4, 2, 1 eggs respectively. From the earliest nest young hatched on March 25 or 26. Of the 63 nest boxes available in the parks, 61 were used at least once this season. A total of 174 sets, 774 eggs, were laid. From this large number only 261 young, 33.7 percent, left the nest box safely. Predation was heavy, 81 nests being entirely unsuccessful. Among these, 18 mother birds and 46 nestlings are known to have been destroyed by cats and 55 eggs failed to hatch through the loss of the incubating females. A boy robbed 11 nests of eggs; 42 were rifled of their contents by snakes. A 54 inch specimen collected in one of the boxes last year after eating the young was identified by Dr. Jesse M. Shaver, Peabody College, as a Southern Pilot snake (*Elaphe obsoleta obsoleta.—Say*).

Each year several sets of albino eggs have been laid but this season 14 sets (71 eggs) were found, comprising 9 percent of the total laid. Among them was a most unusual set of 7 pure white eggs, laid from March 27 through April 2; one of these was spherical and it hatched like a normal egg. Six of the set hatched but the young were taken by a snake a week later. In June the feathers and band of the mother bird were found below a box two and a half miles from her early nest. A cat had pulled her from the box as she incubated a set of 5 white eggs including another spherical one. The last Bluebird nestling of the 1942 season left the box August 23.

Worthy of mention is the pair of Starlings that assisted in raising some 5 day old Bluebird nestlings whose mother had been eaten by a cat. On April 16 I removed the 4 Starling eggs that had been incubated 10 days in a Flicker box on a tree at my home, substituting the 6 cold hungry baby Bluebirds. The Starlings immediately began feeding them and fussing at me when near. Three of the orphans survived which I took at two weeks of age to finish raising by hand.

In August an immature Screech Owl surprised a West End resident by coming down a chimney into her living room. I placed the little fellow in the vacant half of my duplex lath owl house where the Barred Owl with the partially amputated wing lives. The Screech Owl did not like to live alone and persistently worked its way into the larger owl's cage through an aperture caused by warped laths. During its stay of almost two weeks its time was spent on the perch beside the big fellow or roosting on a spike in the wall just behind him. Both birds appeared content with the arrangement.

A few recovery records of banded nestlings have been acquired this year. Of particular interest are those of three Mockingbirds. One, banded in May, 1941 in a nest on Vanderbilt Campus, came down a residence chimney two miles distant on the very cold snowy evening of Jan. 8, 1942. It was released safely. Another nestling, which I had rescued from a stray dog as it left a nest in our neighborhood in May, 1937 and raised by hand until it could care for itself, was killed by a cat in June, 1942. This occurred less than half a mile from its birthplace. In the intervening five years it had come to our garden only once; during a drouth in 1940 it entered a water trap. The other nestling, banded in June, 1940 in Percy Warner Park, had migrated and was found dead in Cumming, Ga., in April, 1942. This band was sent to Washington by the finder for identification. Previously I have had three other migrant Mockingbird nestlings reported; one each from Camden, Tenn., Fulton, Miss., and Rising Fawn, Ga. A few others are on record that had remained within a mile or two of their birthplaces for breeding.

NASHVILLE, TENN., Sept. 1, 1942.

# VESPER SPARROW

### *By* BENJAMIN R. WARRINER

The Vesper Sparrow probably does not know it, but this member of the multitudinous Sparrow family bears a name meaningful and appropriate in great degree. The name is a truly high-bred word, one that can be traced straight back to times and places when and where modern culture first got off to a good start.

Vesper has copious quantities of Greek, Latin, French, and good old English blood in its verbal veins. The Greek hesperos means evening, and hesperos aster means evening star; and of course Venus is usually considered the most prominent of the stars, or rather planets, that sometimes stud the skies at the twilight hour. Vespera is the Latin for evening, and Hesperus is the evening star. Vesper, English, (French vespres), as everyone knows, is that period between sunset and dark. A very beautiful word, with still more beautiful meaning. It is usually associated with things musical, religious, peaceful. There are vesper bells—played at eventide; vesper hymns—sung at the day's close; and vesper prayers—said when peace has settled over the scene. Vesper religious services have long been popular with churches sponsoring a variety of creeds.

Now all of this has been gathered up and wrapped around a poor little, innocent grass Finch. A heavy burden that he has had to bear for more than sixty years; for it was in 1880 that John Burroughs started a movement that resulted in the bird's being named Vesper. This was due to the fact that this Sparrow was, and doubtless ever will be, at his best as a songster at twilight. His soft musical notes do blend perfectly with the peace and quietude of that restful hour.

On Sunday evening March 29, 1942, at the precise vesper hour, I found cavorting in a bit of lowland some fifty Vesper Sparrows. (One of the very rare occasions when I have run across this, here, rare bird). The setting was perfect; no noise, no wind; mild temperature; the end of a perfect spring day. In a small field of broken corn stalks, sparse sedge, and short-cropped grasses, all bordered by a wire fence and a slight sprinkling of small trees and shrubs, the birds sang a perfect vesper song. In fact it was a chorus, for as best I could tell every one was trying to burst his little throat. The silver notes of Bobolinks in a meadow in May, at the vesper hour, could not possibly have been any sweeter. It was my first experience of hearing them sing, and I thought that surely John Burroughs must have been inspired when he first suggested that the name Vesper would be more appropriate for so fine a bird than just plain Grass Finch.

Very early in the morning of March 31, I went back to the same spot to see whether the Vaspers were still there. They were, to my delight. Except that there were a hundred instead of fifty, counting a few Field Sparrows mixed in. The wind was wild and high, and cut me almost to the bone in spite of the heavy clothing I wore; frost covered the fields, and the ditch showed thin ice. Near, a plowman yelled with anger at his team; on a paved highway a hundred yards distant, the horns of trucks were blown raucously and long; a dog belonging to a farmhouse close by resented my presence and barked furiously.

The Vesper Sparrows? Well, they should be called Aurora Buntings, for they sang the same sweet notes they had sung in the evening. The mellowest of tunes, not one whit different from the chorus of the vesper hour, except that there were decidedly more singers. A few Field Sparrows joined in and sang, "*We can sing too - ooo - oo - ò !*", quite jealous apparently of the visitors.

Now of course it all goes to prove that environment does count heavily when one is making an appraisal of a bird's song. The ears of the listener are an important factor and there must be no disturbing elements to compete with the bird's vocal chords. The song a mockingbird sings in the broiling sun is the same one he sings in the moonlight at midnight, but the listener, possibly by bringing into play a lttle poetic license, would declare it entirely different. At any rate, and on second thought, the name of the Vesper Sparrow does not need to be changed. Call him a Grass Finch until the sun goes down, but from that hour the name becomes an impossible one, for the little minstrel lifts his voice to Hesperus and forgets the earth that is his daytime habitat.

CORRINTH, MISS.

## BIRD NOTES FROM THE SMOKIES

*By* ANN KING

On May 16, 1942, a group of school-weary professors and students set out from Johnson City to spend a few days in the Great Smoky Mountains. The group consisted of: Dr. J. T. Tanner, professor of Zoology at State Teachers College, and president of the Johnson City Chapter of the T. O. S.; Mrs. J. T. Tanner of the Department of Education; Dr. D. M. Brown, professor of Botany; William Pearson from Kingsport; Albert Hyder, student at State Teachers College; Maxine McClain, also a student; and, your writer, Ann King, who had just finished being a student.

The trip was principally for a little relaxation in the form of chasing down the more interesting birds to be found in the Smokies. We were not disappointed. On our first day, accompanied by Arthur Stupka, Park Naturalist, the group observed from the highway from Gatlinburg to Newfound Gap, Collins Gap, and Clingman's Dome. Our first interesting observation was of the Olive-sided Flycatcher, characterized by singing from the tips of tall dead trees above the thick underbrush. Its song is also very characteristic and interpreted by some to be: "*Whoops, free beer*" with the accent on the first word! Actually it is a very beautiful, clear toned song with considerable volume. Soaring above us at Collins Gap was a magnificent specimen of the Broad-wing Hawk. At Clingman's Dome song notes fell on our ears from all sides, a mountain medley of the voices of: the Veery, Mountain Vireo, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Cairn's Warbler, Carolina Junco, Towhee, and Goldfinch, as well as distant notes we could not identify.

The climax of the day was not a bird song. We were walking along on a trail just below Collin's Gap when we heard the drumming of the Ruffed Grouse. Hyder asked Mr. Stupka if there would be any chance of seeing the Grouse. Stupka answered, "Well, it's doubtful, the sound of the drumming can be carried quite a distance and it is usually difficult to trace." A few minutes later the group was quietly sitting in a little open space, very much absorbed in another bird. Again we heard the drumming, and two or three of the group saw the movement of the beating wings in a wooded area not more than thirty feet away. When the excitement died down sufficiently to allow observation, we settled down to watch, making as little sound as possible, so as not to disturb the bird. The Grouse was sitting on a large fallen log and did not seem to be aware of our presence. For nearly an hour we sat motionless, binoculars trained on the bird, and watched the unusual sight of its drumming spaced at intervals of four to five minutes. In an effort to determine just when the drumming sound was made, Dr. Tanner crept closer. The majority of the group seemed to think that the noise was heard when thewings flapped away from the body. A number of explanations for this might be possible. Literature on the subject is scant so if any of the MIGRANT'S readers have made any personal observations or know where any information may be found about the Grouse's drumming either Albert Hyder, 908 W. Maple St., Johnson City or Ann King, Route 1, Erwin would appreciate hearing from them.

On the following day the group hiked from "The Grass Patch" to the top of Leconte on the Alum Cave Trail. Never were we out of hearing of the Cairns (Black throated Blue) Warbler, they were so abundant. Other common species encountered were: the Red-eyed and Mountain Vireos, Yellow Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Oven-bird, Canada Warbler, Scarlet Tanager, Chipping Sparrow, Towhee, and higher up the; Veery, Junco, and Appalachian Chickadee.

On top of Leconte the next morning, half an hour before sunrise, the Veery was heard in full song. He had no competition from other birds that early. I know of no sight and sound more inspirnig than a Leconte sunrise accompanied by the melodious song of the Veery. The group then returned to Newfound Gap via the high Boulevard trail. The next day we very reluctantly packed up our camping equipment and started home—but with the satisfaction of having seen some very unusual and beautiful sights.

ROUTE 1 ERWIN, TENN.

# THE ROUND TABLE

A VISIT TO CRANETOWN: On a previous trip to the heronry at Reelfoot Lake, in late May, 1941, the size of the nesting colony was estimated at less than three hundred nest (see*Migrant* Dec. 1941). During April, 1942 another visit was made to the colony under more favorable conditions for estimating the number of nests, because the cypress had not leafed out. In a ninety degree quadrant over one hundred American Egrets were easily counted, indicating more than four hundred birds present, and this does not include the large number away from the colony, as they are coming and going at all times. If most birds are breeding, and there is no reason to think otherwise, there must be over two hundred nests of Egrets alone.

Since the Cormorants seem equally numerous, and Ward's Blue Herons also, there are probably well over five hundred nests. Besides these, there are some nests of Black-crowned Night Herons, and a few Anhinga's. Only seven of the latter birds were seen, and they are by all odds the most scarce as well as the most shy bird present.

Yellow-crowned Night Herons were seen occasionally, but not at the nesting colony. One nest from which the birds flew, was found thirty feet above water level on a cypress limb, near Otter Basin at the upper end of the lake, on May 17, 1942.

The Ward's Herons and Cormorants were in the preliminary stages of nest-building, while most of the Egrets were sitting on eggs, on the 19th of April. Later, in the middle of May, most of the Egrets had young birds. On this latter date, Mr. Roger Peterson of the Audubon Society made a series of close-up photos of the birds from a treetop blind. During a three hour period at the blind a variety of other birds were seen, including Bald Eagle, Red-shouldered Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Black Vultures, Pileated Woodpecker, Prothonotary Warblers, etc. The vultures frequently stooped from a considerable height, low over the observation platform, with a loud "whoosh" of their wings.—WALTER R. SPOFFORD, Nashville, Tenn.

FISH CROW AT MEMPHIS: This small crow (*Corvus ossifragus*), is a bird of the seacoast but extends inland up the larger rivers. Memphis is now the farthest point inland where it is found. On Aug. 2, 1931, I visited Grassy Lake (now in Shelby Forrest) and recorded, among other species, two Fish Crows (*The Migrant*, 1931:24). In subsequent seasons these Crows were occasionally encountered whenever we were near Horn Lake, Ensley-Darwin bottoms, and up and down the Mississippi River. In 1922 H. E. Wheeler found the Fish Crow along the Arkansas River in central Arkansas (*Wilson Bulletin*, 1922:239). Accordingly, J. D. Black (*Auk*, 1935:90), when he collected a small crow in this region on May 18, 1929, assumed it to be a Fish Crow. However, the specimen was subsequently identified as the Southern Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos paulus*) which is smaller than *C. b. brachyrhynchos* of northwest Arkansas. Black was thus inclined to doubt the occurrence of the Fish Crow since no specimens had been collected. Wheeler's description of the birds and their nests leaves no doubt in this writer's mind that he correctly identified them.

Such doubts being natural we have often thought of the desirability of securing specimens at Memphis. Several rivermen were asked to watch for a good shot at one. Generally, on our trips, we were not collecting. Several years ago we went down to the Ensley bottoms and McCamey spent several hours trying to stalk several close enough to shoot, but without success. On May 31, 1942, we made another special trip there for this purpose and Austin Burdick, Jr. secured two specimens. The first was from a group of five or six; the second was from three which flew over. Burdick mounted one for the Memphis Museum and prepared the other as a skin for Mr. Ganier's Tennessee collection. The latter was first sent by Robert Tucker to Dr. Alexander Wetmore at the U. S. National Museum. We are indebted to Dr. Wetmore for an authoritative identification of the specimen.——BEN B. COFFEE, JR., Memphis, Tenn.

THE SEASON AT MEMPHIS: March and April continued warm with normal amounts of rain; there were no cold waves except for those of one or two days duration. Hugh and spectacular waves of Kinglets (mainly Golden-crowned) and Brown Creepers, began passing in mid-March and continued until the last April. A similar flight of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers occured in April. Otherwise, the spring migration was disappointing in that the number of transients fell to from 25 to 30 per cent below the average of other years.——Of especial interest were: American Egret, Overton Park, April 3 (Tucker, Miller); Osprey, Mud Lake, April 12; House Wren, Millington, April 26 (Coffey, Tucker); Red-breasted Nuthatch, Blue-headed Vireo and 12 Scarlet Tanogers in Overton Park on April 25; many records of Philadelphia Vireo all around Memphis thru the first half of May; Mourning Warbler, Ensley bottoms, May 10 (Coffey, Tucker); Black-billed Cuckoo at two locations, May 14; Swainson's Warbler, almost "common" in all bottoms around Memphis; Olive-sided Flycatcher, Shelby Forest, May 24 (studied by Tucker, et al, at leisure while perched atop dead limb and in clear view), and a Whip-poor-will calling during April in Overton Park.——Cerulean Warblers are now known to be probably nesting in at least four locations about the city, having been found in the Ensley, North Lake and Mud Lake bottoms and in the Wolf River bottoms near highway No. 70.——Thirteen Mississippi Kites put on a never-to-be-forgotten aerial display, in the Ensley bottoms below Memphis, for our party on May 31. One Kite is a beautiful site in the air but 13 is a noteworthy treat.——Fall shorebirds records are lacking, since Mud Lake, their favorite gathering place, has been high and without muddy shorelines. In Overton Park, 2 Black-billed Cuckoos on Aug. 20 (Smith, Tucker), a Golden-winged Warbler on Aug. 20 (an early date), and 2 Wilson's Warblers on Aug. 25, were seen. A Grinnell's (or Northern) Water-thrush was collected Aug. 29 on Wolf River. The Yellow bellied Flycatcher appears to be the second most common *empidonax* flycatcher at Memphis in the fall; three specimens of this species were collected, on Aug. 19, 26, and 29.——Mr. B. B. Coffey has handed me the following notes: "Painted Buntings were absent at many previous locations. "6-C" on Bodley Avenue continued on exhibit and our field-day group found 4 at or near Lakeview, May 3. Occasionally what appears to be a first-year male is heard singing. One appeared at Coffey Grounds May 14 and again June 8. The uncommon Wilson's Warbler appeared in the yards of three T. O. S. members. One was seen May 11, 1942, in the azalea bed at Coffey Grounds while Joe Mason and Demett Smith each reported one. Upland Plovers were first seen at the old Bry's Airport on Apr. 8 (four Towhees were reported last by Mason on May 23 and 24; these might have been stragglers. A Black Tern was seen on the river, May 24. The Barn Swallows again nested under a bridge at Shelby (Penal) Farms. Single pairs and nests were seen under two concrete bridges on Highway 78 near Oakville and Capleville. On June 7, we saw a Barn Swallow along the highway about 5 miles south of Tunica, Miss.——At the Municipal Airport on May 24 I watched a large airliner depart and numbers of others warm up and take off. Thru all the man-made noise I could hear the song or a Prairie Horned Lark. The singer was finally located about 200 feet up.

Another was heard June 16 at the Shelby Farms; a new location for this species. A pair were seen July 5 at the Holly Springs (Miss.) location.——The Mississippi Kites of Overton Park wandered far afield; one evening we watched one soar over our yard."——ROBERT TUCKER, Memphis.

NOTES FROM THE MILAN AREA.—(August thru November, 1941, chiefly on Ordnance Plant area). A hot and dry summer and fall. Song ended in this period, dwindling away in August with a few individuals singing in cooler parts of day. Some last song dates: Dickcissel, July 24; Meadowlark, July 24; Bobwhite, Aug. 23; Towhee, Aug. 28; Field Sparrow, Sept. 2; Indigo Bunting, Sept. 9; Dove, Sept. 10. A Mocker was still giving its gay summer song July 31. Song was resumed in September, Meadowlarks heard on the 2nd became the dominant bird voice in this and ensuing months and continued to sing on fine days into December. Mockers sang freely in Sept. and Oct. and once on Nov. 18. A Yellowthroat gave a poor flight song Sept. 10th; a Phoebe was heard Sept. 26th at dawn on a chilly morning. Towhees sang some Oct. 20 and 21 and Song Sparrow Oct. 29th and later. Carolina and Bewick Wrens were heard frequently in this period.

Only the more conspicuous transients could be observed. Upland Plover recorded July 30, Aug. 2, 7 and 13; Sept. 17 and 23, all in fllght very early in morning or after dark. Solitary Sandpiper heard Sept. 4 and 6, daybreak and earlier. Swallows frequent in late summer were seldom identified, their flocks of twenty or more individuals passing swiftly across country; Aug. 26, Sept. 2 and 3. Barn Swallows noted Aug. 11 and 12, Sept. 4 and 9 were well marked males. A Martin seen Aug. 39th. Red-headed Woodpecker noted in flight cross country Sept. 6th and 17th, two each time. Last group seen at sun-up easily cleared a 200 ft. water tower, so high were they. None noted summer or winter on the area. Some last dates: Thrasher, Sept. 23; Summer Tanager, Sept. 22; Green Heron, Sept. 18. In July, Starling and Grackle roosts were found in most villages of the area covered but these did not become large and all species of blackbirds have been scarce during the fall and winter. Starlings are virtually unknown on the ordnance plant area now. A Swift roost flourished in the Milan High School reaching at least a thousand birds in late August. It was last noted Oct. 8th, but probably lasted longer than that. Most interesting roost was a Kingbird gathering in weedy bottoms of John's Creek at Whitthorne, which reached a peak on Sept. 9, when a partial count of incoming flocks showed 584 birds—total may well have been 1000. All were gone on 12th. Jays were numerous thruout the summer and very noisy in the hot days of August and September. Undercover of this constant screaming and behind the thick foliage of the oaks, some kind of migration takes place. Their numbers became noticeable less in late September and the species is now scarce. Millet fields attracted Doves in numbers: July 25 counted 76 on a power line crossing such a field. Oct. 16 saw 100 there. Today can still find groups of 3 to 9 along roads.

Fall arrivals were seldom recorded. Oct. 16 two large flocks of Canada Geese passed over; one seen by writer at 9:30 a. m., counted 150 birds. A Creeper on Sept. 27 seemed early by Nashville standards. Juncos, White-throated, Song and Swamp Sparrows and Sapsuckers are regularly observed now. Horned Larks in small flocks noted on parking lots, lawns and other bare spots, Sept. 2; Oct. 6, 8, 22 and 29, and later, connect pretty well with summer dates and convince the writer the species is a permanent resident in these two counties. Other winter bird life: hawks of several species, Sparrows, Cooper, Marsh and Red-tailed, all present in small numbers, Crows, which have learned to forage for scraps from lunches; Vultures, chiefly Turkey but a few Blacks now occur, all from a roost to south in Madison County. Bluebirds perch on wires along the roads, an occasional Shrike (as many as two on a ten mile drive), Titmice and Chickadees are confined to woodlands and the rather numerous Cardinals tend to keep to cover. This sketchy report cannot do justice to the bird life of the interesting Milan region, but summarizes the records caught on the run.—HARRY C. MONK, 406 Avoca St., Nashville, Dec. 15, 1941.

NOTE*:* The above is a continuation of seasonal data presented in the Sept., 1941, issue. It was misplaced by the undersigned but is now submitted because of its information on an unworked region.—B. B. COFFEY.

SWAINSON'S WARBLER NESTING NOTES: Summer 1942 was the third consecutive season that the Swainson's Warbler was found at Cumberland River sloughs. We came to think that in the scarcity of this type of habitat might be found an explanation for the rarity of this warbler. The lay of the land in the river bottoms shows that once there were many such sloughs. Draining makes choice corn land out of them and even in the last fifteen years Cunningham's and Neblett's Sloughs in the Clarksville vicinity have been laid dry. Left are now Haynes' Lake at Dotsonville, Marks' Slough at Lock B and, nearly half way to Nashville, the largest of them at Chapmansboro. They are fed under the bluffs by springs whose marshy courses stay wet even in times of unusual drougth, while the rest of the slough down to the yoncopin patches dries up. Then wood-cutting makes inroads into the stand of cottonwood and water maple that surrounds the button-bush and willow areas. In the shaded portions cane is scattered whereas on the sunnier stretches of the border dense patches of cane taper off into blackberry and saw-briar fields. At Mark's Slough Swainson's Warblers were seen this year on May 3 and May 14, but we do not know if they nested there as they did in the past two years. On May 24 the Chapmansboro slough was visited by A. F. Ganier, Chas. F. Pickering, my son Edward and myself. Swainson's Warblers were seen in three places and Mr. Ganier located a nest with two eggs, the bird sitting on them. It was in cane that had bushed out well on top, near fresh water and deep shade, yet receiving sunlight during part of the day, in all an ideal location. The surmise that this Warbler's careful choosing of nesting area confined him to our sloughs was changed later as Mr. Ganier predicted it would be. We were on a canoe trip to West Fork Creek on June 2 and had searched cane patches along the banks for nesting species when, near the mouth of West Fork into Red River, Edward called me to a nest with three eggs and one young just hatched. The old bird that flew off, he said, was brown and had a stripe over the eye. The nature of the nest, the white color of the eggs confirmed our hopes and if proof were lacking, we soon had it by seeing two adult Swainson's Warblers feeding among the dead leaves that stuck to the ground. Two days later Dr. Pickering photograpehed bird and nest and secured a fine picture of the sitting bird.

Several flash bulbs set off within two feet did not make her move and I even picked her off the nest. June 24 the three eggs—they must have been addled—were still in the nest. The birds were ranging not far off as we were told by the male's song which was true to type but rather short and explosive. That is the only Swainson's song I have heard this year in my own bailiwick. We had started a systematic search for other nesting sites of this Warbler and on June 6 found two empty nests in cane on the banks of Cumberland River near the Seven Mile Island (so called from its distance from town by river). They were this season's used nests indicating early broods. Hordes of tiny ants that had possession of them made them untouchable. In a deep gully that a rivulet had cut to the river a short way above the island Dr. Pickering saw on July 16 several Swainson's Warblers and a few days later, while we did not see the birds again (no sign they weren't there!), we found a third nest. We seem to have here the first instance in Middle Tennessee of this species nesting in groups, a habit that is reported from other sections. —ALFRED CLEBSCH, Clarksville, Tenn.

THE SEASON AT NASHVILLE: The Spring Field Day was held at old Sycamore Powder Mills on May 3 and during the course of the day 101 species of birds were listed. Although 21 species of warblers were listed, they were rated scarce and continued so throughout the migration period. Members from a distance who favored us with their presence were Messrs. Hyder and Pearson of Johnson City, Ijams and Hay of Knoxville, and Davis, Black and Hind from Murfreesboro. The only Mourning Warbler reported during the spring was one by Mrs. Laskey on May 26. (See her article elsewhere for other notes). Dr. G. R. Mayfield reports a late Blackpoll Warbler, having observed it June 2. He reports that the Carolina Wren is increasing in numbers again. Records he kept for 12 years prior to 1940, showed that 5 to 7 pair nested in the Idlewild Wood summer homes reservation on Stones River. During the spring of 1940, however, following the disastrous cold spell of the preceding January, not a single pair nested within the reservation. In the summer of 1941 a single pair established itself about the cottages and possibly another by the end of summer. During 1942, 3 or 4 pair raised their young within the area and it is hoped that 1943 will see them re-established in normal numbers. His first fall transient migrants were Magnolia and Black-throated Green Warblers on Aug. 27, in Idlewild Wood. On the 29th, he found the Canada, Blackburnian and Chestnut-sided Warblers and a Blue-headed Vireo together at the same place. On Aug. 30, the Northern Water-thrush was added to the list. He states that these dates are quite normal for the above species.——Mr. Ganier hands in the following notes: A Woodcock flushed in Compton Hills, April 13, near a wet-weather spring on a rocky hillside; at that date it should have been nesting. Cedar Waxwings were notably abundant during April and May. A Purple Gallinule was brought to him on April 13, it having been captured alive near Ridgetop, 20 miles north. The captor promised to release it. A Barn Owl was seen by a friend on Woodmont Blvd. on July 15, near where Wm. Simpson described nests in *The Migrant* for Dec. 1940. Two pairs of Prairie Horned Larks were found in the Cumberland River bottoms 12 miles west of town, thruout the breeding season. A period of heavy rainfall, July-August, produced abnormal late summer foliage and in consequence an abundance of leaf-eating insects and caterpillars. As a result, considerable late summer nesting resulted and most of the ground feeding birds spent their time aloft in the foliage feeding on the abundant insects. A Dove's nest with 2 fresh eggs was found Aug. 15. Fall migration has been somewhat retarded.——The writer worked during the summer on the new army camp on Thompson Lane and made notes there. The 4 acre pond, which has been the summer home of Redwings, Kildeers, etc., was drained the middle of June. The Redwings remained on until Aug. 10. The site was graded over to form a level drill field and here Kildeers and Doves came in numbers. As many as 100 of the former have congregated. Doves had come to the field in considerable numbers by July 1st, and on the 12th, 57 were counted. Three pairs of Red-headed Woodpeckers raised their young on the camp area this summer. In view of their recent reported scarcity- it may be of interest to state that the writer located 3 or 4 additional pair in and about the city. On May 10th, in company with Dr. W. R. Spofford, we banded 2 young Red-tailed Hawks from a nest in Percy Warner Park. On May 23, the writer with Arthur McMurray and Carswell Hind, found another nest of this hawk in the Overton Hills and the lone young bird that remained in the nest was banded the next day as it was ready to leave.—CONRAD JAMISON, Nashville, Tenn.

A PEREGRINE FALCON AT NASHVILLE: On May 21, 1942, an immature male Peregrine ((Duck Hawk) in its second year was shot near Franklin Road in the suburbs of Nashville. The right wing was broken in two places, but he was otherwise unhurt, and reached the writer about three hours after being shot. A splint was placed on the wing, and by July the bird could fly fairly well, but as he is now moulting his wing feathers he cannot be flown again until November. There are very few records of the Peregrine in the Nashville region. On May 19, 1942, Mr. Roger Peterson saw a bird of this species, equipped with jessies and bells, flying across Broad Street. This may have been a bird that I lost the previous autumn. In April, 1925, Mr. Ganier saw one at a cliff on the Cumberland River about ten miles west of the city. Mr. Baker, at Radnor Lake, has reported seeing a hawk flying back and forth low over a flock of ducks, with rapid wingbeat. He has seen such a bird only a few times in his many years at the lake, and only in the winter months.—WALTER R. SPOFFORD, Nashville, Tenn.

RED COCKADED WOODPECKER STILL AT PICKETT STATE PARK: In June of 1937 a group of observers from the T. O. S. spent a week in Pickett County, and there discovered several pairs of Red-cockaded Woodpeckers. It was feared at the time that the removal of the large pines in this and adjacent areas would drive this species entirely away; however, during the week of July 20, 1942, these birds were observed twice by members of the T. O. S. They were two different pairs and now that the pines are growing back rapidly, it is believed that observers will find this species saved for that area.—GEORGE R. MAYFIELD, Nashville, Tenn.

CLIFF SWALLOWS NESTING AT CHATTANOOGA: On the evening of July 21, 1942, while crossing the Market Street bridge over the Tennessee River at Chattanooga, I noticed a total of 5 Cliff Swallows darting about just below the bridge. They gave every evidence of having nests underneath. I did not have binoculars with me and from the bank the distance was too great to make out any nests. The birds were visiting a dark area on the underside of and in the center of the concrete walkway which projects out several feet from the concrete arch. It was about 100 feet above the water level which doesnot vary much now due to the Chickamauga Dam. A fisherman of about 35 years of age stated the birds had been nesting there all his life, most certainly for the last 10 to 12 years which was the period I arbitrarily wanted to substantiate. Boys used to throw at the nests over the northern shore, knocking them down, he said, and he had seen young ones in such nests. We walked back under the approach spans, which are 40 to 60 feet above the ground, and could see 3 or 4 nests at one point. At another point, seen in a better light, were two nests, backed against a large concrete girder and plastered on the underside of the concrete bridge slab. The young birds had probably left by late June. The fisherman stated a few nests were always found on the rock bluff on the southern shore, just east of the Walnut Street steel bridge. Standing in the boat he could touch them with his paddle. The bluff does not have much overhang. I did not notice any swallows there when I recrossed. In fact the only ones seen were the five noted originally. This was a very late date but from their actions I believe that young were or had recently been present.—BEN B. COFFEY, JR., Memphis.

CHATTANOOGA NOTES: On the evening of July 21, 1942, under the north end of the Market Street bridge I was surprised to hear a Song Sparrow singing. This is south of its normal summer range. A Yellow Warbler was carrying food for young nearby. Later a second Song Sparrow was heard. On the morning of the 22nd I rode the incline up Lookout Mountain and spent an hour making a circuit from Point Park to the fire station. Towhees, Chipping Sparrows, Robins, Wood Thrushes, Carolina Wrens, and Blue Jays were common. Also seen were Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 1; Wood Pewee, 2; Carolina Chickadee, 4; Tufted Titmouse, 6; White-breasted Nuthatch, 2; Mockingbird, 3; Brown Thrasher, 3; Red-eyed Vireo, 2; Magnolia Warbler, 1 immature; and Cardinal, 9. Later, in Point Park, a Black-and-White Warbler was heard. From there, on the way down to near Cravens House, nothing was seen or heard. Afterwards, near and at the base, we recorder: Ruby-throats, 3; Flicker, 1; Wood Pewee, 1; Carolina Chickadee, 1; Tufted Titmouse, 5; Catbird, 7; Wood Thrush, 5; White-eyed Vireo, 2; Yellow-throated Vireo, 1; Red-eyed Vireo, 8; Yellow Warbler, 1; N. Yellow-throat, 3; Hooded Warbler, 2; Redstart, 1; Summer Tanager, 1; Cardinal, 9; Indigo Bunting, 5; Goldfinch, 6; Towhee, 10; and Chipping parrow, 4. Along the railroad, at the base, I heard and saw 2 Song Sparrows. On a short walk while waiting for a bus, I heard, among other species, a Starling and 2 more Song Sparrows.—BEN B. COFFEY, JR., Memphis,

HERONS ON CHICKAMAUGA LAKE: From July 9 to Sept. 1, I spent about half of each week working near Hiwassee Island at the junction of the Hiwassee and Tennessee rivers, 30 miles north-east of Chattanooga. This island is low and covered with swamp, marsh and mud flats, affording an excellent feeding place for all water birds. The American Egrets were surprisingly tame and very common; an estimated 50 staying in the vicinity of the island. Great Blue Herons were regularly seen; on July 14, we saw a flock of 7 of them and in another flock, 19 Egrets. Two immature Little Blue Herons were seen on August 26. Green Herons were quiet common. Other birds of especial interest were a mature Bald Eagle and a large flock of Black and Common Terns. These were seen on August 18th.—WILLIAM YAMBERT, Fountain City, Tenn.

EARLY ARRIVAL OF THE GRASSHOPPER SPARROW: To the best of my knowledge the Eastern Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum australis*) does not winter in the Knoxville region. From available records, April 2, 1938, seems to be the earliest date for its spring arrival in this vicinity. From the information compiled by the Knoxville Chapter of the Tenn. Ornithological Society, first records since 1936 are as follows: April 10, 1936; April 26, 1937; April 2, 1938; April 15, 1939; April 27, 1940; April 5, 1941 and March 4, 1942. The 1942 date is so early as to be of more than passing interest. The Knoxville area had experienced a heavy snowfall on March 3. Early in the morning of March 4, Mrs. C. V. Shipe observed a Blue Jay attacking a small bird which was fluttering about on the snow covering her front lawn on the Washington pike, about 6 miles north-east of Knoxville. The Jay succeeded in killing the bird. Later in the morning the attention of Miss Lula Shipe, Instructor in Zoology at the University, was called to the incident. She went out and picked up the sparrow and knowing my interest in birds, brought it into my office. I was greatly surprised at finding it to be an Eastern Grasshopper Sparrow and at this early date. The skin is now a part of our skin collection.—HENRY MEYER, Dept. of Zoology, Univ. of Tennessee, Knoxville.

WOODCOCK NESTING ON ROAN MOUNTAIN: A nest of the American Woodcock, (*Philohela minor*) containing four eggs was discovered on May 24, 1942, on Roan Mountain, Mitchell County, N. C., at an elevation of 6,000 feet. The top of the mountain there is a grassy meadow thickly sprinkled with rhododendron bushes. On the afternoon of the 24th the writer, in company with Mrs. Tanner, Prof. D. M. Brown, Dick Stevenson, and Pal Trusler, found the nest beneath a small rhododendron bush that was only about two feet high. It was in an unusually open place for a Woodcock's nest; the nearest bushes were all small and were several feet away, so the nest was completely exposed except for one side. When found, the four eggs were cold, but the following morning my wife and I returned to the nest and found the bird incubating. It sat very tightly; several photographs were made, and Mrs. Tanner succeeded in stroking the bird's back before it flew. The most unusual thing about the nest was its location in the open, grassy, rhododendron bald. Woodcocks usually nest in or close to low damp thickets. Nearby were several springs making soggy ground where the bird could probably could find food.—JAMES T. TANNER, Johnson City, Tenn.

NOTES ON "WHISPER SINGING" OF A YELLOW-THROATED VIREO: Forbush and May (*Natural History of the Birds . . .*, p. 404) recount an istance of the Blue-headed Vireo's singing in a fully subdued tone. This was during the period of molt, on August 19, 1907, in Concord, Massachusetts.

The Yellow-throated Vireo (*Vireo flavifrons*), a closely related species, on August 25, 1941, was noted by the writer in a similar act, this occuring on a deciduous creek slope near Bert Adams Camp, Vinings (Cobb County), Georgia. Interspersed among the oaks and poplars were several loblolly and short-leaf pines, to which the Vireo seemed more partial. This bird gave a succession of true "whisper songs." Strongly did these resemble the termination of the Ruby-crowned Kinglet's *chanson*, and toward the end of the undertone phrasings a more squeaky quality persisted. It all differed singularly from the ordinary song. As an interruptive sound, and also following the main delivery, the common down-slurring "scold note" was given. The Vireo once hopped to a pine twig where a Wood Pewee was perched, the latter simultaneously leaving the twig. Incidentally, a nearby Vireo of this species sang rudimentary phrases-notably the sweet "three-eights" or "ree-urts." These birds were amongst a loose and leisurely bird-wave comprising several species. From the Yellow-throated Vireo this is the only incident of "whisper song" that has come to my attention. Any cases in which birds deviate from the normal in voice, as well as in general behavior, would be noteworthy.—ROBERT NORRIS, Tifton, Georgia.

GROUND DOVES IN MISSISSIPPI: The normal range of this species (*Columbigallina p. passerina*) is Florida and near the coasts of the South Atlantic and Gulf States. In the northern portion of the latter states, there are but few records so the following occurences should be of interest. Rosedale is 100 miles south-east of Memphis, in the Mississippi River lowlands. On Dec. 16, 1924, I flushed seven of these birds in a cornfield and observed that they appeared to be eating weed seed. On March 17, 1928, three of these little doves were observed in the dirt road north of Rosedale, near the levee. On Jan. 31, 1937, two were noted in cornfields between the highway and the levee. They were feeding on weed seed and when flushed, would drop down again from 20 to 100 feet further on. They were also observed on several other occasions during the fall and winter of 1936-37. On Feb. 7, 1937, one of a pair, a male, was collected and prepared in the form of a skin. This was at the same location as that of Jan. 31, above referred to. Near Moorhead, Miss., which is 40 miles south-east of Rosedale, a Ground Dove was secured on Jan. 3, 1938, by Mr. Everett of that city, and brought to me to mount for the college museum there. A short time prior to this, he had secured another from the same place, so now they have the pair. These birds in this locality seem usually to go in pairs. It has not been observed in nesting season and so appears to be only a fall and winter visitant from more southerly breeding grounds.—M. G. VAIDEN, Rosedale, Miss.

## HERE AND THERE

NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS: John B. Calhoun, instructor in biology at Northwestern, married Aug. 15, Miss Edith Gressley.——Arthur McMurray and William Simpson, both of Nashville, are attending the Univ. of Tennessee Medical School at Memphis.——William (Bill) Yambert, of Fountain City, is the recent recipient of a four year scholarship at Harvard.——Austin Burdick spent the summer as a forest ranger in the State of Washington and returns to L. S. U. this fall.——Robert Tucker, also of Memphis and the artist of our last issue, enters La. State University in Sept.——William Griffin of Atlanta, former editor of *The Oriole*, is being succeeded at that post by Robert Norris of Tifton, Ga., Bill having joined the Marines.

IN THE ARMED SERVICE: Ben B. Coffey of Memphis is in training at Ft. Bragg, N. Car.——Harry C. Monk of Nashville, is at Ft. Belvoir, Va.——James T. Tanner of Johnson City entered the Navy as an ensign in May.——Walter M. Hendrix also of Johnson City is now in the Army.——Burt Monroe of Louisville is with the Air Forces training in Florida.——This list is incomplete and the Editor will be glad to have news of other enlistments.

*Bird Banding* for July, publishes a list of the 345 cooperators who banded more than 100 birds each during the year ending June 30, 1941. We are proud of the fact that several of our members are near the top of the list. Mr. Coffey's name stands third with a total of 9689 birds banded and Mrs. Laskey is seventh with 6753. Prof. and Mrs. Henry Meyer of Knoxville are in 22nd place with 2068. We note also the names of Mr. H. O. Todd of Murfreesboro and of Mr. and Mrs. L. G. Scott of Mt. Pleasant.

Attention is called to adv. on cover of back numbers which may be purchased to complete files. All proceeds go into our publication fund. Of a good many numbers, the stock is very scant. The March, 1938, is out of print and in demand. Readers are urged to keep their copies for reference but if your files are broken and not to be kept, kindly donate any old issues to our stock and the postage will be refunded.

The second supplemental list of new members (those since Sept., 1940) will be published in our December issue. Our members are urged to have new members whom they may wish to sponsor, apply before that time. To new members who pay 1943 dues before Dec. 15, a copy of that issue will be sent gratis.

MEETINGS: Nashville Chapter, Dr. W. R. Spofford, Pres., announces fall meetings will be held on the 2nd and 4th Monday evenings of each month, a Fall Field Day in late October and the X-mas Census on Sunday, Dec. 27. Meeting schedules for chapters at Memphis, Murfreesboro, Knoxville and Johnson City have not come to hand but will be held as per previous custom.

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THE MIGRANT

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## EDITOR'S CHAT

We are bidding au revoir and good luck to our erstwhile editor, Mr. Ben B. Coffey, who entered the army in August. Mr. Coffey piloted THE MIGRANT thru a bit more than the past four years of its existence and has done a splendid job. Thru his efforts, more than four hundred pages of well edited literature pertaining to the birds of Tennessee has been put on permanent record. Moreover, during this time he has also carried on his own considerable field work, some of which he has cast into print and much, still unfinished, must await his return, Gathering, editing and preparing the contents of THE MIGRANT is no small job, particularly when one has to do it in off hours. The Society is therefore greatly indebted to Mr. Coffey and we hope that he may again be able to take over when his military services have been ended.

Our president, Dr. Chas. F. Pickering, at the request of Mr. Coffey, has asked the writer to complete the present volume in view of his experience as Mr. Coffey's predecessor. He has accepted, for the time at least, and solicits copy for the December issue to follow. That issue is planned to be held until just after Christmas, in order to be able to report the mid-winter bird census without waiting, as formerly, for the March issue.

The future of the T. O. S. and THE MIGRANT cannot be definitely determined at this time. If their dissolution would aid our Country's war effort, it would willingly be effected. However, most of its activities can be carried on by members beyond the service age or by those engaged in civilian wartime activities. The latter, working under pressure for the most part, are in need of a bit of out-of-door recreation on week ends and we know of nothing so rehabilitating to a tired mind and body as the complete change afforded by leisure hours in the woods and fields, enjoying our pastime of bird and nature study. Until conditions change radically from what they are today, we shall carry on though in a more or less restricted way.

To our young men and women who have entered the Service, we say that we shall follow your activities with solicitous interest. Let us know where you are and what you are doing; as much news as you can give us of yourselves will be published in these columns. We wish you good luck, good health, and a safe return to the Volunteer State.—ALBERT F. GANIER.

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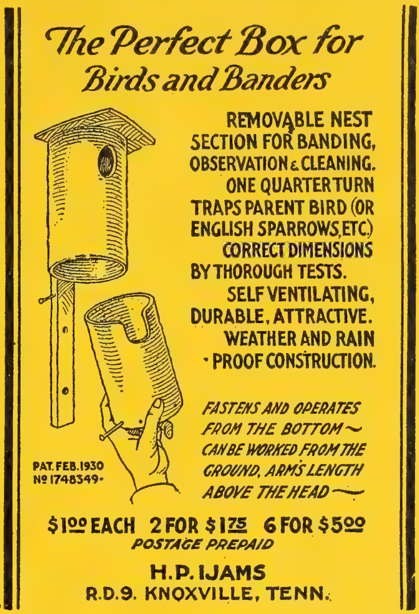

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# THE MIGRANT

A QUARTERLY JOURNAL
DEVOTED TO TENNESSEE BIRDS

Published by
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# THE MIGRANT

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## A NOVEMBER WEEK WITH REELFOOT LAKE BIRDS

*By* Chas. F. Pickering

Much has been written of the summer birdlife of Tennessee's extensive earthquake lake but few have elected to go in with the gunners on the opening week of the hunting season to indulge in the more peaceful pursuit of bird study with field glasses and camera. The practicability of such a venture this year however was made possible by the establishment of large waterfowl refuge areas on portions of the lake and the prohibition of hunting in these areas by Federal wardens assigned to their protection.

Along with fellow-members I arrived at our hunters clubhouse on the west shore of the lake, on Nov. 1, 1942, and spent the next six days enjoying my avocation. While my friends were blasting away at the waterfowl with guns and a vast battery of ammunition, I spent my time in the refuge areas with nothing more deadly in my boat than a battery of cameras. It was necessary of course to have permission for this and a permit was secured from the Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Interior. The permit having been shown to and graciously approved by Mr. Harry Adams of Samburg, officer in charge of refuges, I was then free to roam the lake at will.

The refuge areas, most of which are shown on Federal maps of the lake, include Brewer's Bar, Burnt Woods, Black-jack Hollow, Campbell Gap, Buzzard Slough, etc.—an area about three miles wide and six to eight miles long—between Samburg and Blue Basin which is near the north end of the lake. The area between Blue Basin and Walnut Log is also a refuge. These areas are studded with both live and dead cypress trees, situated where the water stands from two to six feet deep, and include considerable areas thickly grown with aquatic vegetation, much of which affords food for waterfowl.

A great number of hunters were on hand to "open the season" at 7:21 a. m., Nov. 2, and after the shooting had been in progress a bit, most of the ducks began to leave the basins and seek the refugees. They soon learned in what areas they were safe. I followed them on in and had a most interesting time watching their habits and making photographs. These were both stills and motion pictures, the latter mostly in color and taken with a six inch telephoto lens. One reel was made in slow-motion and is quite interesting in that it shows the wing-beats of the ducks in detail. I spent six hours that day in the Brewer's Bar area and ducks were everywhere, flying close to me frequently, so I had no trouble in getting all the pictures I wanted. The species of ducks chiefly seen were Mallard, Gadwall, Pintail, Ring-neck, Lesser Scaup, Redhead, Canvasback, Shoveller, Blue-wing and Green-winged Teals, Bufflehead, Ruddy, and a few Wood Ducks.

JAN 30 1943

My permit allowed me to be accompanied by a guide, so on Tuesday I spent the entire day with a "pusher" in several of the refuges. We covered practically all of the closed areas and ducks were everywhere. These guides ordinarily go with hunters in search of ducks to kill and many of them are not sold on the refuge plan. However, on this day I think I convinced the guide who went with me that this protection was for the ultimate good of the hunters as well as the ducks

Geese were also moving across the lake and on Wednesday I kept count and noted twenty twenty flocks of them. The great majority were Blue Geese but there were usually fifteen or twenty Snow Geese in each of the flocks. The flocks had from one to three hundred and my estimate of the twenty flocks seen that day would be between three and four thousand. These Blue and Lesser Snow Geese do not remain on or about the Lake any great length of time for nearly all of them move on down to the Gulf Coast in Louisiana, where there are thousands of acres of refuge marsh lands. In these refuges they find food and safety until the urge of spring migration starts them back on their long flight to Hudson Bay.

Most years, a feature of the autumn birdlife of the lake is the immense number of blackbirds going to their roosts in the sawgrass flats each evening. These flocks are of Grackles, Starlings, Cowbirds, Rusty and Redwing Blackbirds. In years past I have seen them in flocks that would darken the sky in passing. During the present visit however, they were notably scarce, the flocks being fewer and smaller numbers in each flock. It is probable that they were concentrated in greater than usual numbers in the rice fields west of Memphis, where a very large crop of that cereal was planted this year.

The prettiest sight I saw was that of thousands of Tree Swallows over Blue Basin. Thousands would be in the air and then suddenly sail down and many alight among the branches of one of the old dead cypress trees and literally cover its branches. Their white breasts made it look as though the tree had been suddenly visited by a snow storm. (See illustration). In order to get pictures, I would paddle the boat to windward and then let the breeze gradually drift the boat toward the tree, thus keeping myself very still. By this technique I was able to drift as close as ten feet to them, then suddenly, all the "snow" would instantly disappear. It was interesting to watch them feed. They would hover close to the surface of the thick floating moss and pick insects, worms, ets., from its carpetlike surface, reminding me much of Least Terns in the air. At times, they would indulge in play in the air. For example, one would be seen flying about with a feather in its beak, then flying above the flock it would release the feather, upon which hundreds would dart to catch it. The lucky one would fly up again to repeat the procedure and this would be continued for a long time.

The six days I stayed at the lake were spent entirely in boats, and as I did no walking I saw and listed very few land birds. Some flew over the water, however, or lit on the snags, such as Bluebirds, Flickers, Crows and the "blackbirds" mentioned. Two summer birds that are a feature of the lake—the Least Tern and the Prothonotary Warbler—had already left to seek a warmer climate.

CLARKSVILLE, TENN., November 15, 1942.

# IMITATION OF OTHER BIRDS BY THE STARLING

### By GEORGE R. MAYFIELD

The first known record of the European Starling (*Sturnas vulgaris*) in Middle Tennessee was of 300 birds roosting on Centennial Hill at Nashville, on Dec. 9, 1921, they having been identified by H. C. Monk who continued to observe them there. The first nesting pair in the Mid-Tennessee Basin was seen about 2 miles east of Woodbury, in Congressman Houston's yard, by Vernon Sharp, Jr., and the writer on June 9, 1927. The following year, our Nashville group found several pairs nesting in telegraph poles along the Murfreesboro road three miles southeast of Nashville. In 1929 a pair of these foreigners (possibly two) was suspected of nesting on the Vanderbilt Campus, as they spent the spring and early summer there. By 1930 several immature birds were observed as they chased the parents and squawked for food.

That same year in the early spring, my attention was directed to the song of a White-throated Sparrow in the top of an elm tree near the Barnard Observatory, Such an unusual procedure for that area caused me to look for the wandering Whitethroat. To my surprise it turned out to be a Starling whistling, chattering and clucking by turns. The sweet whistle of this northern sparrow seemed to intrigue him for he came back to this melody again and again as if pleased with his rehearsal. The Meadowlark and the Wood Pewee were next in frequency in his repertory. Then it dawned upon me that some stray calls of the Meadowlark in 1929 and in earlier 1930 were what they seemed to me at th etime—nature faking. And then and many times since then I have mourned the fact that my beloved Vanderbilt Campus had ceased to be a dependable auditorium for recognizing the presence of any given species. Listeners from now on must become observers if they would be sure of the identification.

Since 1930 I have added thirty or more species to the list of birds heard imitated by the Starlings and these imitations are generally accurate enough to deceive the most experienced bird students. Individual Starlings vary greatly in the extent and variety of imitations even more than do the Mockingbirds themselves. In March, 1941, a male Starling with a nest in the making nearby was heard to imitate fifteen different species in a short space of time. From my notes of the past twelve years the following tabulation has been made to give the readers of THE MIGRANT some idea of the species imitated and comparative frequency.

I.—Species first imitated and today most commonly mimicked (5) are the Meadowlark, Cowbird, Bronzed Grackle, Redwing Blackbird and White-throated Sparrow. It will be noted that the first four are in the same general family and their voices are noisy, highpitched, and distinctive.

II.—Species commonly imitated by many Starlings (11) are the Bluebird, Bobwhite (female call), Cardinal, Carolina Chickadee, Flicker, Mockingbird (he mocks the Mocker), Wood Pewee, Robin, English Sparrow, Downy Woodpecker and Hairy Woodpecker.

III.—Species whose notes are infrequently imitated or seemingly preferred only by certain individual Starlings (18) are the Bob-white (male), Goldfinch, Sparrow Hawk, Blue Jay, Junco, Kildeer, Prairie Horned Lark (flight call), Nighthawk, Solitary Sandpiper, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (or the Red-shouldered Hawk), Summer Tanager, Tufted Titmouse, Brown Thrasher, Towhee, Myrtle Warbler (chip), Cedar Waxwing, Carolina Wren and Red-bellied Woodpecker.

NASHVILLE, TENN.

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# SANDHILL CRANES NEAR KNOXVILLE

*By* HARRY P. IJAMS

The most important record made here in recent years was the observation of a flock of Sandhill Cranes (*Grus canadensis*—subsp.) near Seymour, Sevier County, by Theodore Blair, a farmer of that vicinity. This point is fifteen miles east of Knoxville. Mr. Blair estimated that there were fifty of the birds and stated that they had fed in his wheat field for three days, Oct. 22-24, 1942. He shot one of them and very wisely brought it to Knoxville for identification. It proved to be a mature female in beautiful plumage. Its length was 45½ inches and its wing-spread was 73 inches. A striking field mark—a bright red featherless pate extending down to a line through the eye—was very conspicuous. The bird was turned over to S. A. Ogden who made a splendid mounted specimen of it. Eventually, it will be placed in the University of Tennessee collection or in the prospective Smoky Mountains National Park Museum.

Mr. Blair's estimate of fifty birds sounds like a lot to me. I had the idea that there were not many more than that in existence, to the north of us at least, and had observed only two or three individuals (the Florida subspecies) in the Everglades. A farmer's estimate however is generally conservative and when he says there were fifty of these big, conspicuous birds, you can put it down that there were a lot of them.

*Natural History Magazine* for November, contains an article about Sandhill Cranes, in which it is stated that they are staging a come-back. I am glad to make a report of Mr. Blair's observation since it helps to confirm that statement. A. C. Bent in his Life History of N. Amer. Birds records observers as saying that these cranes often feed in wheat fields in the autumn and become quite fat on the fallen grain they are able to glean. They are said to eat considerable green food too as well as grasshoppers and other insects. They therefore differ from the herons in their food habits in that small fish and aquatic animals play only a minor part.

This is the fourth recent Tennessee record for this species. Previous records are of one shot near Chattanooga, June 1, 1936, and now mounted at the University of Chattanooga (MIGRANT, 1936:24); a flock of thirteen observed near Crab Orchard, March 13, 1939, (MIGRANT 1939:16); and a record by J. M. Edney, of a mounted specimen in the State Normal College at Murfreesboro (*Journal, Tenn. Acad. of Science*, 1940, 15:401), who states that it was shot from a flock of four, in Bedford County near Shelbyville, in August, 1936. Whether these specimens are the northerly Sandhill Crane or the slightly smaller and darker subspecies, the Florida Crane, cannot be determined until critical examination has been made of the three mounted specimens above mentiond.

KNOXVILLE, TENN., Dec. 1942.

# FURTHER NOTES ON BARN OWLS

*By* WILLIAM SIMPSON AND CONRAD JAMISON

In this journal, for 1939, p. 76, and 1940, p. 97, the writers described nestings of this species on Woodmont Boulevard and in Bellemeade, in the outskirts of Nashville. In late December, 1941, the above nesting trees were again visited and climbed but the cavities were not in use. A dwelling had been built 25 feet from the Woodmont tree. During the last week in December, 1942, we again visited the above sites with the following results.

Passing the Woodmont site, at 3:00 a. m. on the morning of Dec. 28, the owls were heard giving out their rasping notes, and this they kept up almost continuously. Later in the day, we returned with ropes and climbed the big living oak tree to the cavity. An adult bird flew out and in the cavity were found two nearly grown young and another that had died. The two were banded, after which one of them flew from the nest. The people who lived in the newly-built house adjacent to the tree, objected to the noise given off by the birds saying that it kept them awake. They had shot one of the adult birds the previous week. Since they threatened those remaining, we decided to remove the small family and reestablish them elsewhere. On the 29th, we found two owls in the hollow, one of which escaped and the other, an adult female, was removed. In the large cavity where the young were, as well as on the ground below, there were numerous pellets in which the skulls of small rodents could be seen. On the 30th, we again returned and found the two young which we had previously banded and these also were removed. In the nest this time was found a freshly killed, half grown cotton rat, from which it would appear the young had already begun to hunt for themselves. The people who had come to live in the new house claimed that the owls had been seen to carry small rabbits to the nest during the summer months. All owls found using this tree in 1939 and 1940 were banded but the 1942 adult wore no band.

The Bellemeade site was visited on Dec. 29 and a Barn Owl was flushed from the cavity before the tree was climbed. This nest was also in a large living oak tree. Examination showed that no eggs or young were in the nest.

At Franklin, Tenn., 20 miles south of Nashville, on the night of Dec. 29, accompanied by Arthur McMurray, we located another nest, by hearing the young make their characteristic calls. It so happened that we were taking our "dates" home when we heard the birds as we walked by. Much to the young ladies' (I fear) disgust, we hurried them on home and immediately came back and located the two young, sitting in the entrance cavity and begging for food. The two adults were feeding them and all could be seen each time a passing auto illumniated the tree. The following morning the tree was climbed by Simpson who banded the nearly fledged young. This nest was in a hugh living white oak tree, 8 feet in diameter, which grew on the lawn of an old home a block from the business district. The elderly lady who owned the place was much interested in their welfare and told us that Barn Owls had nested in this tree all during the 55 years she had lived there. During the Civil War, soldiers were said to have used this hollow, at the very top of the trunk and 60 feet above the ground, as a lookout station. Only pellets were in the cavity with the two young but on the ground below were found a meadow mouse and a rat, probably dropped by the young the night before.

These, and our previous records, would seem to establish the fact that fall nesting of this species in Tennessee were of regular occurence. It is probably caused by the fact that rodents are numerous at this season and more easily seen and captured when the grass is dead.

NASHVILLE, TENN. (C. J.) AND MEMPHIS, TENN.. (W. S.)

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# OBSERVATIONS ON THE MOULT OF A GRYFALCON IN TENNESSEE

*By* WALTER R. SPOFFORD

In January, 1942, Col. Luff Meredith sent the writer a young Gyrfalcon from southern Greenland. Although far to the south of her normal range, the falcon thrived and went through her first moult uneventfully while here in Nashville. This is the farthest south of any such record except for a Russian Gyr flown for several years by Mirza (prince in persia) in the 1850's. Probably the Gyr can stand hot weather as long as the climate is dry. Iceland Gyrs brought over to England in the middle of the last century contracted a form of asthma and most of them died in less than two years, but the older literature attests the great success there of the old falconers not only with the Norway (Gray) Gyrfalcon, but with the Iceland and white Greenland falcons as well.

During fine weather, my falcon "Narsa" sits on a block perch on the lawn, and at night on a "screen" porch in the hawk house or "mews." Under favorable circumstances, she is flown free to the lure, but she has not been entered to live "game." During the hottest days of summer, even though in the shade, she lays on the ground in the deep grass and can not be seen from ten feet away. When hot, she pants much like a dog, (as also did a "passage" caught Peregrine believed to be artic in origin, while a local Peregrine showed no distress whatever). In spite of the heat, she remained in excellent condition in a climate more than 1500 miles south of nher normal range. In January her plumage (immature) was predominantly light brown above, and white, fairly heavily streaked with dark brown, below. (There were two or three adult or gray feathers between her shoulders.) From April through September she dropped all of her flight feathers and most of her contour feathers as well. She was plentifully fed throughout the moult period, mostly on fresh beef, beef heart and pigeon. The meat was occasionally supplemented with dicalcium phosphate and halliver oil. Her weight during this period was about 54 oz., and her present flying weight is 51 oz.

In order to readily follow the moult described below, reference may be made to the plumage and wing diagrams shown on another page. The old primaries dropped and were replaced in regular sequence, beginning with number 7 (the "moult center") and proceding outward towards number 1 and inward toward number 10 from this point. The actual sequence was numbers 7—6—5—8—4—9—3—2—10—1, which can be broken down into two series, an inner number 8—9—10 and an outer number 6—5—4—3—2—1 both proceeding from number 7 at the same time. Most variations in the order of feather replacement can be explained by relative differences in the rates of the two series. Usually the outer series drops two, to one of the inner series, and hence the last to fall out, number 10 and then number 1, may be close together, or even reversed. Differences within either series, however, are very rare, but Stabler (1942) has recorded a Peregrine with a moult center at number 8 one year and number 6 the next, in the former case the sequence being numbers 8—6—7, a true reversal.

On April 11, Narsa dropped number 7 and a few hours later, number 6, on the right wing, and number 7 on the left. Within ten days she had lost four (7—6—5—8) on each side, and by May 12 she had also dropped number 4 and number 9. In early June number 3, and in middle July, number 2 and number 10 dropped. The outermost (number 1) dropped on August 10, was the last to go. Both right and left feathers dropped out on the same day in the cases of number 7 and number 1, and there was never more than five days between members of a like pair. Two weeks after each feather was dropped, the new feather sheath was nearly two inches long, and the tip of the developing feather was unfolding from the sheath. Primary number 7 was complete in six weeks, but number 2, a longer feather, took nearly ten weeks. It is difficult to be sure just when the feather is full in, because the growth, rapid for the main part of the feather (over an inch a week), falls off during the last week or more, the base or quill being formed very slowly. The primary coverts were replaced along with the primaries, and seemed to follow similar sequence, but in a careful study, Stabler ('42) has found that the coverts in both Peregrine and Gyr drop in a different order (8—7—9—6—5—4—10—3—1—2). The feathers of the false wing (allulae) fall out in the order 3—2—4—1, the moult center hence being at number 3.

Records of the secondary remiges (flight feathers) were not complete, but the first moult center is at number 5 and spreads inward and outward from there, the initial order being number 5—6—7—4—8. The later sequence was not kept and the presence of another center in the innermost feathers (numbers 10—11—12) was not observed. "Narsa" dropped numbers 5—6—7—4 in the latter half of April, but more slowly after that; number 11 dropped in late August, and both number 1's on September 18.

The "train" or tail began with the "deck" feathers (middle, or number 1's), on May 9, and the last pairs to go, 4's and then 5's, in the middle of August. The replacement order was numbers 1—2—6—3—4—5. In this tail series, the number 6 (the outermost pair) is an additional moult center, and perhaps in birds with a large number of tail feathers, number 6 may be the beginning of a second series, (such as the three moult centers in the secondaries of accipiters, according to Miller, 1941). Tail feathers numbers 1, 2, 6, and 3 dropped (each pair) about three weeks apart, but the 4's and 5's fell out in four days, only two weeks after the 3's.

Complete data of the contour feather moult was not kept, but numbers of these small feathers dropped from the head, back, breast, panel and flank in April and by August her plumage was more than half renewed. Several new gray feathers appeared early in the moult symmetrically placed in the dorsal mantle (shoulder) region and in general the moult was symmetrical. Small feathers seemed to drop in "showers" lasting for several days, followed by very few for the next week or ten days. Each shower was brought about by the falcon working all over her plumage with her beak, dressing down and pulling at the feathers, which dropped out by the dozen. The explanation of the showers lies not in any internal rhythm, but probably in the fact that the feathers loosening in their follicles irritate the falcon. Her response, in working over them, results in not only the loose but also all potentially loose feathers dropping out and hence there is some time before a new "irritation" develops.

Although many small feathers are still unmoulted, the only prominent patch of these at the time of writing (Dec. 1, '42) is the lesser wing coverts, they forming a conspicuous brown patch on an otherwise ash-gray and white bird. At present the contour feathers of her upper parts are light gray, her flight feathers gray barred with lighter gray or white, and her underparts white with numerous drop-shaped black markings. Her much whiter head at once distinguishes her from the also gray (but more bluish) Scandinavian Gyr. In general, her whole appearance is much lighter after her moult. Although the Gyr has a bare unfeathered tarsus and toes, there are two or three minute feathers on the medial side of the hind toe, and the same on the lateral side of the middle toe. Those of the hind toe disappeared in August, and have not been replaced. The middle toe group is still present and no moulting has occurred there yet.

Narsa is apparently a fine example of the Iceland Gyr (*Falso rusticolus islandus*), but those breeding in south Greenland are probably not as genetically pure a stock as those breeding in Iceland (where it is the national emblem!), as the following data show. The following records, from eight young falcons (seven females and one male) brought from Greenland during the last six years by Col. Meredith, show the influence of the light colored Polar Gyr (*F. r. candicans*) in northern Greenland and the dark, continental or "Labrador" Gyr (*F.r. obsoletus*). Thus while the young from two eyries were typical Iceland birds, three young from another nest had the pure white head and underparts of the polar type, but the more heavily marked Iceland wing. A fourth nest held one very dark Labrador type, and one very light bird with obvious Polar characters. Unfortunately, there is apparently no record of any of the parent birds, as the young were all brought in by Esquimaux.

In conclusion, it is a pleasure to acknowledge the kindness of Mr. R. G. Turner of the Tennessee Division of Game and Fish in granting permission to keep a falcon and to the National Geographic for use of the diagrams.

NASHVILLE, TENN., Dec. 1, 1942.

References cited.—MILLER, 1941, *Condor,* v. 43, pp 113-115, and STABLER, 1942, *American Falconer,* v. 1 (3) pp 6-12.

# ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CENSUS

*By* OUR MEMBERS

The MIGRANT presents its 14th annual census of mid-winter birds which, in spite of handicaps incident to the war effort, is one of the best we have had. The success of this list comes from the accumulating experience of our observers who, regardless of weather conditions, go afield and by their cooperative effort build up a surprisingly large total. This year's list shows that 107 different species of birds were found within Tennessee, which number may be compared with 94 in 1941, 93 in 1940 and 96 in 1939. A King Rail taken near Nashville on Jan. 2, would raise the total to 108. The list is for full species; subspecies, or races, having been disregarded. Certain species are well known to be represented by two or more subspecies, such as the Migrant Shrike and Loggerhead Shrike (Memphis), Slate-colored and Carolina Junco (east Tenn. mountains), Bronzed Grackle and Purple Grackle (east Tenn.), and a number of others, unrecognizable except with specimens in hand. Groups who selected Dec. 27 for their census were severely handicapped by general rains on that date. A careful study of this list will prove of interest, presenting as it does a composite picture of our winter bird life.

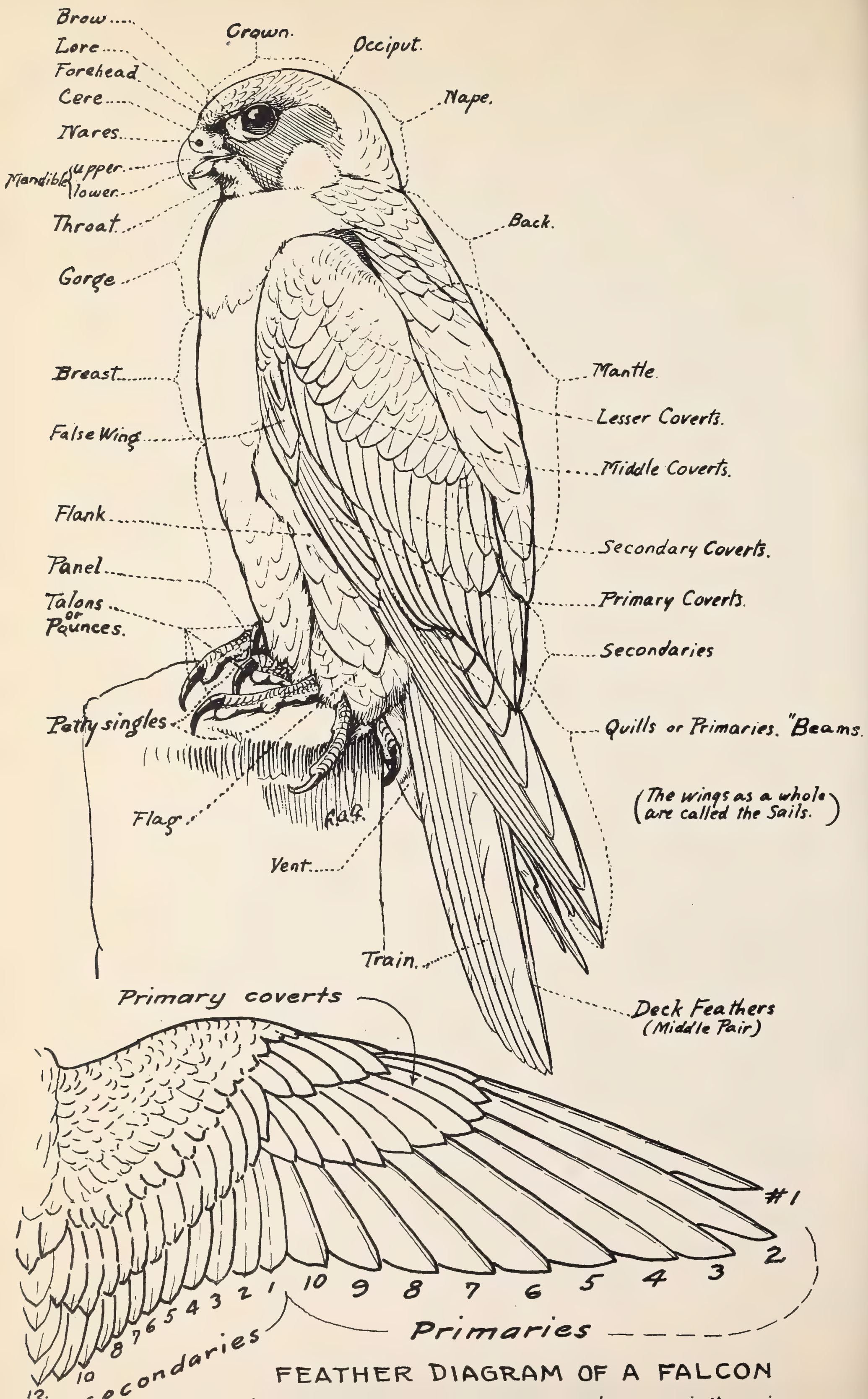
| | Memphis Dec. 20 | Clarksville Jan. 2 | Nashville Dec. 20 | Nashville Dec. 27 | White Bluff Jan. 3 | Murfreesboro Dec. 23 | Gt. Smokies Dec. 20 | Knoxville Jan. 3 | Norris Dec. 23 | Johnson City Dec. 27 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Number of Species | 75 | 49 | 67 | 68 | 46 | 45 | 48 | 47 | 54 | 40 |
| Number or Individuals | 21,726 | 1,064 | 2,642 | 3,503 | 1,271 | 4,045 | 1,178 | 2,211 | 1,374 | 942 |
| Number of Observers | 20 | 2 | 10 | 25 | 5 | 2 | 20 | 13 | 6 | 4 |
| Common Loon | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Horned Grebe | ... | ... | 2 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Pied-billed Grebe | 3 | 1 | ... | 2 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Double-cr. Cormorant | 20 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Great Blue Heron | 2 | ... | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 | 1 | 1 |
| Canada Goose | 9 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | *8 | ... | 1 | ... |
| Lesser Snow Goose | 4 | ... | *8 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Blue Goose | 15 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Common Mallard | 25 | 9 | 43 | 24 | 19 | ... | ... | ... | 70 | ... |
| Black Duck | 5 | 7 | 45 | 21 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 263 | ... |
| Gadwall | ... | ... | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Baldpate | ... | ... | 3 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 | ... |
| Amer. Pintail | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... |
| Blue-wing Teal | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Shoveller | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 | ... |
| Wood Duck | 8 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Rehead | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 | ... |
| Ring-neck Duck | ... | 20 | 112 | 52 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Canvasback | ... | ... | 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Lesser Scaup | 35 | ... | 6 | 36 | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 20 | 1 |
| Amer. Goldeneye | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Bufflehead | 6 | ... | 13 | 5 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Ruddy Duck | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 | ... |
| Hooded Merganser | ... | ... | 8 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Amer. Merganser | ... | 8 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 9 | ... |
| Turkey Vulture | 3 | 29 | 6 | 2 | 9 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 10 |
| Black Vulture | ... | 44 | 4 | 38 | 20 | 7 | ... | 3 | ... | 2 |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Cooper's Hawk | 3 | ... | 2 | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... |
| Red-tailed Hawk | 9 | 3 | 8 | 7 | 3 | 1 | 1 | ... | ... | ... |
| Red-shouldered Hawk | 7 | 2 | 7 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Marsh Hawk | 5 | ... | ... | 2 | 1 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Sparrow Hawk | 20 | 2 | 6 | 19 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 6 |
| Ruffed Grouse | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7 | ... | ... | ... |
| Bob-white | 40 | 21 | 24 | 40 | 28 | ... | ... | 5 | ... | 8 |

| | Memphis Dec. 20 | Clarksville Jan. 2 | Nashville Dec. 20 | Nashville Dec. 27 | White Bluff Jan. 3 | Murfreesboro Dec. 23 | Gt. Smokies Dec. 20 | Knoxville Jan. 3 | Norris Dec. 23 | Johnson City Dec. 27 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Wild Turkey | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | ... | ... | ... |
| Amer. Coot | ... | ... | 8 | 26 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 | ... |
| Kildeer | 46 | ... | 34 | 33 | ... | 2 | ... | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Wilson's Snipe | 2 | ... | 1 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Herring Gull | ... | ... | *4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Ring-billed Gull | 40 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Mourning Dove | 27 | 14 | 53 | 90 | 56 | 14 | 7 | 79 | 1 | 15 |
| Barn Owl | *1 | ... | ... | *2 | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Screech Owl | ... | ... | 1 | 3 | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Great-Horned Owl | ... | ... | ... | 4 | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | ... | ... |
| Barred Owl | 2 | ... | ... | 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Belted Kingfisher | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | ... | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| Flicker | ... | 11 | 9 | 33 | 7 | 4 | ... | 15 | 11 | 11 |
| Pileated Woodpecker | 1 | 10 | 7 | 7 | 1 | 1 | 3 | ... | 3 | ... |
| Red-bellied Woodpecker | 34 | 4 | 13 | 21 | 10 | 4 | ... | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| Red-headed Woodpecker | 33 | ... | 16 | *2 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Yellow-bellied Sapsucker | 12 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Hairy Woodpecker | 10 | 5 | 1 | 8 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 2 | ... |
| Downy Woodpecker | 35 | 7 | 18 | 42 | 21 | 3 | 11 | 15 | 9 | 9 |
| Phoebe | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | 2 | 1 |
| Prairie Horned Lark | 65 | 40 | 33 | 94 | ... | 50 | ... | 7 | 2 | ... |
| Blue Jay | 233 | 14 | 27 | 29 | 30 | 5 | 2 | 30 | 9 | 19 |
| Northern Raven | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... |
| Crow | 78 | 77 | 506 | 183 | 78 | 400 | 88 | 70 | 11 | 83 |
| Chickadee | 87 | 23 | 85 | 107 | 42 | 8 | *50 | 73 | 32 | 20 |
| Tufted Titmouse | 54 | 26 | 51 | 64 | .38 | 4 | 3 | 54 | 6 | 36 |
| White-breasted Nuthatch | 10 | ... | 1 | 1 | 5 | ... | ... | ... | 4 | 2 |
| Red-breasted Nuthatch | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | *9 | ... | ... |
| Brown Creeper | 35 | 3 | 6 | 22 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 3 |
| House Wren | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | *1 | ... | ... | ... |
| Winter Wren | 15 | 5 | 2 | 3 | ... | ... | 8 | ... | 2 | ... |
| Bewick's Wren | 3 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 8 | ... | 2 | ... | ... |
| Carolina Wren | 61 | 28 | 29 | 107 | 13 | 5 | 7 | 40 | 7 | 18 |
| Mockingbird | 59 | 7 | 45 | 74 | 7 | 10 | 1 | 33 | 18 | 14 |
| Brown Thrasher | 15 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Robin | 1,283 | 4 | 50 | 24 | 28 | 65 | 27 | 32 | 14 | 1 |
| Hermit Thrush | 18 | ... | 2 | 2 | ... | ... | 29 | ... | 7 | ... |
| Bluebird | 52 | 26 | 67 | 88 | 19 | 16 | 27 | 68 | 65 | 17 |
| Golden-cr. Kinglet | 62 | 3 | 15 | 16 | 4 | 11 | 156 | *120 | 33 | 35 |
| Ruby-crowned Kinglet | 17 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 3 | 5 | 2 | 5 |
| Amer. Pipet | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Cedar Waxwing | 112 | ... | ... | *... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 43 | ... |
| Shrike | 19 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 2 | ... | 1 | ... | 3 |
| Starling | 1,325 | 205 | 28 | 690 | 5 | 4,000 | 29 | 206 | 52 | 85 |
| Myrtle Warbler | 206 | 8 | 7 | 50 | ... | 25 | 1 | 36 | 40 | 24 |
| Pine Warbler | *1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | *1 | ... | ... |
| Palm Warbler | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | *1 | ... | *4 | ... | ... |
| English Sparrow | com. | 5 | 65 | 190 | 16 | 100 | 65 | 130 | 40 | 85 |
| Meadowlark | 181 | 12 | 34 | 51 | 25 | 54 | 2 | 32 | 2 | 45 |
| Red-wing Blackbird | 5 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | *1 | ... | ... |
| Rusty Blackbird | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Bronzed Grackle | 1,300 | ... | 20 | 3 | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Unidentified blackbirds | 12,700 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Cowbird | 189 | 1 | ... | 1 | *... | 24 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Cardinal | 290 | 64 | 330 | 220 | 78 | 16 | 58 | 64 | 43 | 24 |
| Purple Finch | 22 | ... | ... | 15 | 26 | 12 | 5 | ... | 16 | ... |
| Pine Siskin | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | *10 | ... | ... | ... |
| Goldfinch | 108 | 42 | 67 | 77 | 67 | 4 | 86 | 76 | 50 | 54 |
| Red-eyed Towhee | 58 | 13 | 21 | 52 | 42 | 3 | 7 | 61 | 23 | ... |
| Savannah Sparrow | 9 | ... | 1 | 4 | ... | ... | ... | 10 | ... | 6 |
| Grasshopper Sparrow | *1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| LeConte's Sparrow | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Vesper Sparrow | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... |
| Junco | 1,233 | 64 | 400 | 448 | 255 | 28 | 175 | 130 | 166 | 104 |
| Tree Sparrow | *5 | 24 | ... | 2 | ... | ... | 134 | ... | ... | ... |
| Chipping Sparrow | *1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Field Sparrow | 440 | 46 | 30 | 105 | 80 | 75 | ... | 226 | 157 | 35 |
| White-crown Sparrow | 41 | 6 | 21 | 31 | 3 | 16 | ... | 15 | ... | 18 |
| White-throat Sparrow | 560 | 56 | 118 | 110 | 130 | 27 | 86 | 600 | 150 | 49 |
| Fox Sparrow | 87 | 18 | 8 | 6 | 12 | ... | 3 | ... | 1 | ... |
| Lincolns Sparrow | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | *3 | ... | ... |
| Swamp Sparrow | 41 | 11 | 2 | 11 | 11 | ... | 1 | ... | 4 | ... |
| Song Sparrow | 109 | 29 | 91 | 135 | 72 | 28 | 58 | 83 | 58 | 75 |

*NOTES ON THE CENSUS.—MEMPHIS: Most of the waterfowl were seen on the Mississippi river; Pine Warbler was observed at 15 feet with 6x binoculars by Mrs. Barefield; Barn Owl was first Memphis Christmas record, found by Simpson; the Grasshopper Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow and Tree Sparrow were found 12/23 and 12/24 by Burdick (see Round Table). ———NASHVILLE; see notes in Round Table on Barn Owls and Red-head- Woodpeckers, by Jamison and Simpson; Brown Creepers more common than usual, note that it was reported on all lists; a flock of Cedar Waxings were seen 12/26; Juncos were the most abundant bird as usual; the Snow Geese and Herring Gulls, listed 12/20, were on Cumberland River; birds more numerous about Nashville than in several years.———WHITE BLUFF; a flock of 75 Cowbirds were seen a few miles east of the census area.— ———MURFREESBORO; the Palm Warbler was identified by Prof. Davis by it's color and size,continual jerking of tail, outer tail feathers showing white and it's habit of feeding near the ground. ———GREAT SMOKY MTNS; the Canada Geese, flying low in Greenbrier area and seen by 7 observers, was a first X-mas census record there; Chickadees both of Carolina and Black-capped varieties were seen; the House Wren was observed at close range with 8x binoculars by Stupka who found it again next day and observed it in full sunlight. The bird's alarm note was distinctly unlike Winter and larger Wrens, it lacked any form of facial striping, tail appreciably longer than Winter Wren but shorter than Bewick's or Carolina, more grayish than other wrens, this is our first winter record of a bird that is a rare transient here at best; the Pine Siskins were listed by Goddard. ———KNOXVILLE; these wintering Red-brested Nuthatches and Golden—crowned Kinglets are probably those which breed commonly atop the nearby Smokies; the Red-winged Blackbird, Pine Warbler and Palm Warbler were identified by Messrs Walker, Goddard and Broome and Miss Williams; the Lincoln's Sparrows by H. P. Ijams at 50-75 feet with 8x binoculars.——NORRIS; the waterfowl were on Cove Creek Lake and were observed with binoculars and 20x telescope.

## LOCALITIES, WEATHER AND PERSONNEL

Memphis: Dec. 20, 1942, 8 to 5:30; cloudy, fresh wind; temp. 32-36. Same areas as last year, coverage of Wolf River bottoms not so complete, By auto, afoot and Dr. Leroy on Miss. River in motor boat 5 hours. Total, 60 party hours, 20 observers in 10 parties. Austin W. Burdick, Jr., Mrs. C. A. Barefield, Mrs. Ben B. Coffey, Jr. (compiler), Mary Davant, Newton Hanson, Pauline James, Lawrance Kent, Luther Keton, Billy Laurenzi, Dr. Louis Leroy, Joe Mason, Dr. Ollie Matthews, Allen Phillips, Wm. Simpson, Demett Smith, Mrs. M. L. and Maurice Torti, Robt. Tucker, Brother I. Vincent and Dr. Wendell Whittemore,——Clarksville: Jan. 2; 7:45 to 4:30; mostly fair; temp. 40-60. Clarksville thru golf links, along Cumberland river bottoms 6.5 miles to Marx slough. River, 45 ft. near flood stage, bottoms partly flooded. Alfred and Edward Clebsch.——Clarksville (earlier list, not tabulated above): Dec. 27; 46 species; 8 to 12 (steady rain thereafter stopped field work). A. and E. Clebsch (covering same area as on 1/2) and Dr. C. F. Pickering and Pvt. Vincent McLaughlin covering Red River bottoms, Dunbar Cave lake and Warfield pond. Species seen on this date and not on January 3rd, were Mallard Duck, Red-breasted Merganser 2, Kildeer 1, Barred Owl 1, Red-headed Woodpecker 1, White-breasted Nuthatch 2, Hermit Thrush 1, Cedar Waxwing 15, Shrike 1, Purple Finch 6 and Vesper Sparrow 1. ——Nashville: Dec. 27; 8 to 2 (steady rain thereafter stopped field work); mostly cloudy in a. m., unseasonably warm, temp. 60-70. Radnor Lake, Overton Hills, Hillsboro Road, Hobbs Road, Percy Warner Park, Bellemeade, Westmeade, Hillwood, Halls Lane, Cumberland River bottoms at 8th Ave. and above Shelby Park, Knapp Farm and Mill Creek. 27 observers in 8 parties, 42 party-hours, mostly afoot. B. H. and Mrs. Abernathy, Katherine Anderson, Sam Clark, Jr., A. F. Ganier (compiler), R. M. and Mrs. Hawkins, Wayland Hayes, Helen M. Howell, Conrad Jamison, Mrs. Amelia R. Laskey, Vera McElween, Arthur McMurray, E. M. McNish, G. R. and Mrs. Mayfield, Geo Mayfield, Jr., C. E. Pearson, J. A. Robins, J. M. Shaver, Ed. Shrieber, Wm. Simpson, W. R. Spofford, H. S. Vaughn, G. B. Woodring and G. M. Yarbrough.——Nashville (earlier reconnaissance list): Dec. 20; 8 to 3; cold, cloudy and windy, temp. 30-35. Most of areas covered 12/27, but one partly (Albert Marsh) on river in motor boat. 10 observers in 8 parties. Messrs. Ganier, Hawkins, Jamison, Mayfield, Marsh, McMurray, Shaver, Spofford, Woodring and Mrs. Jamie Tippens.——White Bluff (Montgomery Bell State Park exclusively, 35 m. west of Nashville): Jan3; 9 to 4; mostly cloudy, light wind, temp. 40-50; same 3 routes as on 5 previous listings; 5 observers, in 3 parties, each covering 6 miles a foot. 2 small lakes included. A. F. Ganier, Conrad Jamison, G. R. Mayfield, Ed Shreiber and H. S. Vaughn. ——Murfreesboro: Dec. 23, 8 to 4; Suburbs of town and eastward. Fair and warm. (List includes several species listed on Dec. 24 and 25). George Davis and Henry O. Todd.——Great Smoky Mountains National Park: Dec. 20; area in Tenn., same as in past 5 years; circle of 7½ miles radius centering on Bull Head of Mt. LeConte and including a section of the Tenn.-North Carolina divide from Newfound Gap to the Saw-teeth; also the towns of Gatlingburg and Pigeon Forge, Tenn. Altitude range 1200 to 6100 ft. Intermittent rain in a. m., becoming heavy at times and later changing to sleet, with rain, sleet and occasional driving snow at high altitudes where maximum snow depth reached 12 inches in sheltered areas. Temp. 25 (in mtns.) to 45. 20 observers in 7 parties. Total party-hours 43, party-miles 147 (42 on foot). Mrs. Ben Blackwell, Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Broome, Albert Chambers, E. W. Dougherty, Frelan Goddard, Elizibeth B. Johnson, W. M. and Robert Johnson, Henry Meyer, Elise Morrell, Walter and Mrs. Rohbock, Wm. M. and Mrs. Walker, Jr., Dorothy E. Williams, D. W. Yambert, Jr., PaulYambert (members T. O. S.). Mary Ruth Chiles and Arthur Stupka (National Park Service). ——Knoxville: Jan. 3, 9 to 5; foggy till 10 a. m., clear during middle of day, cloudy after 2 p. m.; temp. 38-60; wind light. Ground wet, stream swollen. Island Home sanctuary and vicinity, Mt. Olive, Cherokee Bluffs, U. T. farm, Lake Andrew Jackson, Sanders Ridge and First Creek. 13 observers in 7 groups; 25 group-hours. Mrs. Ben Blackwell, Harvey and Mrs. Broome, Frelan Goddard, H. P. Ijams, W. M. Johnson, Mrs. Henry Meyer, Elise Morrell, Mary Louise Ogden, S. A. Ogden, Mrs. W. M. Walker, W. M. Walker, Jr. (compiler) and Dr. Dorothy Williams.——Norris: Dec. 23. Norris to Careyville (Cove Creek Lake State Park) and return. 9:30 to 5; temp. 45-50; misty rain in a. m., cloudy in p. m.; 6 observers in 2 groups; 14 group-hours, 5 group miles afoot, balance in car. One group on lake in p. m., 17 miles in car. Ducks studied with 20x telescope. Mrs. Ben Blackwell, Henry Meyer, W. M.


Brow
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Breast
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Flag
Flag.
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Crown.
Occiput.
Nape.
Back.
Mantle.
Lesser Coverts.
Middle Coverts.
Secondary Coverts.
Primary Coverts.
Secondaries
Quills or Primaries. "Beams.
(The wings as a whole are called the Sails.)
Train.
Deck Feathers (Middle Pair)
Primary coverts
#1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
1
2
3
4
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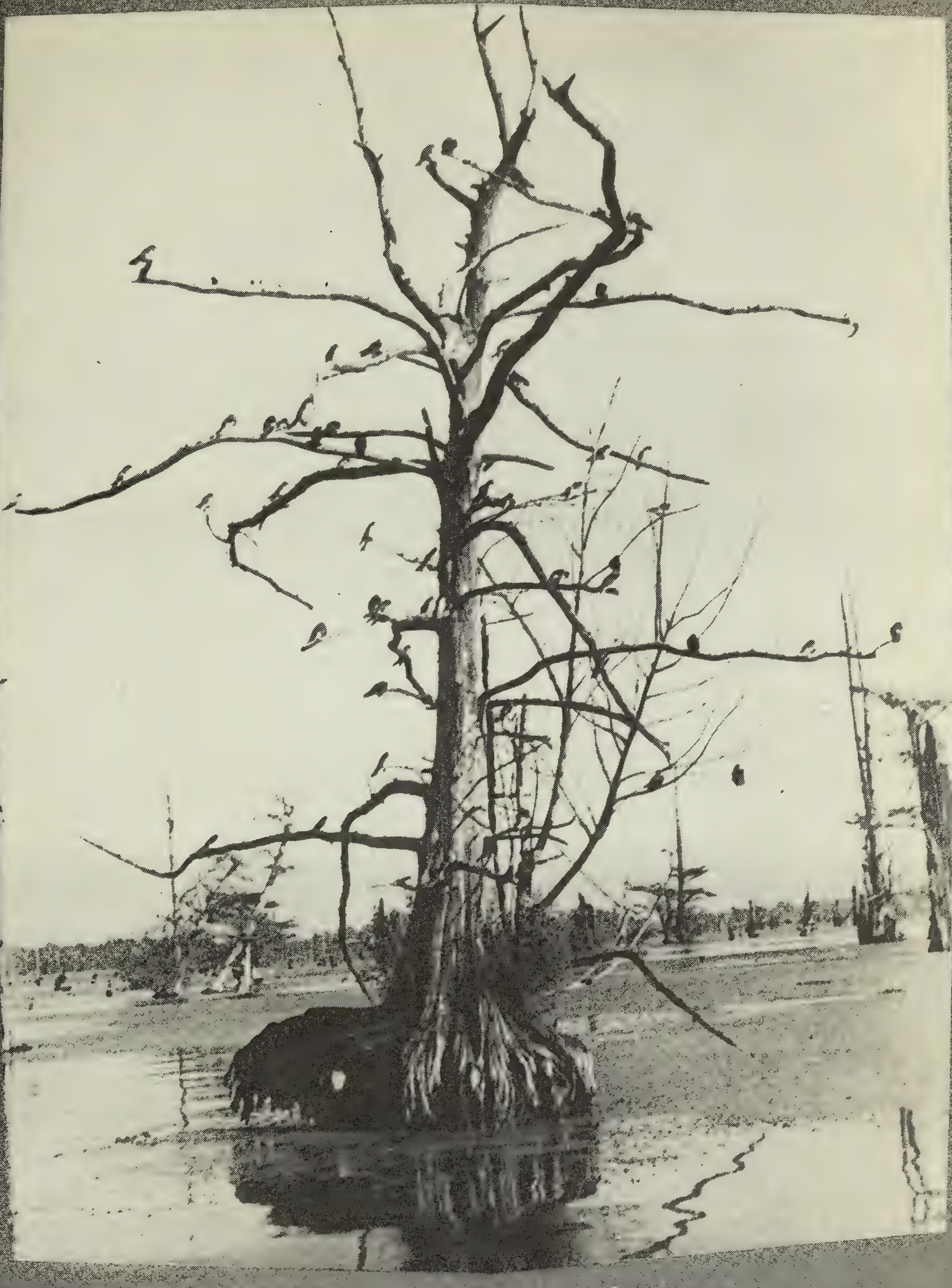
FEATHER DIAGRAM OF A FALCON



TREE SWALLOWS RESTING
OVER REELFOOT LAKE.

and Mrs. Walker, Paul and Dale W. Yambert, Jr.——Johnson City: Dec. 27; 8:30 to 6. Fields, woods and small lake 7 miles south and west and 7 miles north. Ground bare,partly cloudy in a. m., clearing in p. m., temp. 42-54. 4 observers in 2 parties. First party, Bill Pearson and Albert Hydes; 2nd party, R. B. Lyle and Bruce P. Tyler (compiler).——Greeneville: Dec. 23; 34 species, by Ruth Reed Nevins (printed in Round Table; arrived too late for tabulation).

# THE ROUND TABLE

NOTES FROM MEMPHIS: Field trips have been less frequent this Fall since Mr. Coffey has joined the Army, and several other observers have also left our midst, but we are trying to carry on our bird work as much as possible.——Mr. A. F. Ganier, Robert Tucker and the writer visited Mud Lake on Sept. 13. The water level was fine for wading birds and 700 American Egrets, 300 Little Blue Herons, and 35 Great Blue Herons were seen. With the exception of Killdeers there were few Shorebirds. Those seen were: Lesser Yellewlegs, 1; Greater Yellowlegs, 1 (collected); Least Sandpiper, 50; Western and Semipalmated Sandpipers, 100; and Semipalmated Plover, 1. Four Northern Water Thrushes were found at their typical haunts. Of the 4 Empidomax flycatchers seen, one was collected which proved to be the Least Flycatcher. A flock of 25 Blue-winged Teal, feeding in the shallow water, permitted close approach. Fish Crows, 8 or 10 in number were seen thru the day as they flew about among the cypress trees along the lake's edge. A trip to the same locality on Sept. 9 showed a decrease in all birds on the lake and mud flats, however, 125 Blue-winged Teal and 8 Pintail were seen in the shallow pools of water. On Oct. 10, our last trip there, very few herons and sandpipers were noted at all. In the nearby woods we found our first White-throated Sparrows, Golden-crowned Kinglets and Phoebe of the season.——The Annual Field Day of the Memphis Chapter was held October 11 at Shelby Forest. About 45 members and guests participated. The high spots of the day were 3 Bay-Breasted Warblers (McCamey), 2,000 Tree Swallows and 1 Short-billed Marsh Wren.——Huge flocks of Blackbirds flying northwest over the city in the afternoon and back again in the morning have attracted a number of residents. Miss Pauline James visited their roost on Oct. 23 which is located on Redman and Middle Bars about 6 miles up the river. The birds roost in small willows from 5-20 feet high. She reported they simply "poured" into the trees at dusk. It was impossible to estimate their numbers but the roost certainly must have consisted of several hundred thousand birds—Bronzed Grackles, Rustys, Redwings, and Cowbirds.——The migration of Geese at night was especially noticed around Nov. 1-6. McCamey reported 500 Geese, probably Blue and Snow, over his home in the city at 11 a. m. on Nov. 4. A flock of 55 Snow Geese flew over "Coffee Grounds" on Nov. 7, they were quite low and their black wing tips showed prominently.——Our Christmas census was taken on Dec. 20 and though a raw, cold day, we listed 75 species or within 3 of our best record. This list, with notes covering unusual species, will be found on another page. —MRS. BEN B. COFFEY, Memphis, Tenn.

NOTES ON UNUSUAL WINTER SPARROWS IN THE MEMPHIS REGION: Two species of sparrows, the Chipping and the Grasshopper, were collected on a brief visit to Germantown, Tenn., during late December. Each proved to be the first winter record for that area.

The Chipping Sparrow (*spizella passerina*) was taken on Dec. 23, 1942, from a flock of Field Sparrows and Juncos. It was a male in first year winter plumage.

On December 24, 1942, while pursuing a Leconte Sparrow, a Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*) was flushed from a heavy patch of broomsedge growing by a ravine. The bird was immediately collected and proved to be a male in fresh winter plumage.

During my brief stay at Germantown, near Memphis, several flocks of Tree Sparrows (*spizella arborea*) were also encountered. This species is an uncommon winter visitor in the Memphis region. Specimens were collected for the purpose of making subspecific determinations.

All of the specimens mentioned above are deposited in the Louisiana State University Museum of Zoology.—AUSTIN W. BURDICK, Box 6785, La. State Univ., Baton Rouge, La.

CHIMNEY SWIFT NOTES: Spring flocks of these birds are usually few and scattered. On May 14, 1942, Ben Welch reported that a flock of 700 to 1,000 Swifts had gone down a chimney at the Idlewild Presbyterian Church. The next evening we drove towards town, noting a larger than usual number of them in the air, from home a mile westward (the Sears Area). In the downtown area there were practically none. On the 16th we watched about 450 at Idlewild. While we have never checked this species this late in the spring, this seems to be an unusally late date. Miss Merriman at Kingston, Ontario, Canada, bands many each May on about the 24th. These birds were evidently those individuals which nest at the northernmost limits of their range, having left some area to the south at the latest possible day and were moving northward at a fair speed. Such a flock would be a bander's delight but this chimney was inaccessible and our old stand-bys were not in use. Miss Merriman several years ago suggested we try to get a spring flock but we have never been able to do so. At Kingston the birds flock only when they arrive in the spring. This August a group of about 60 at Southwestern University held interesting possibilities of banded birds but repeated rains and our departure on the 29th prevented us from taking them. Flocks of several hundred were gathering at other points. On Aug. 26 we were approaching Collierville when we noticed a few Swifts around a tall chimney on the high school. Others were coming out and from 11:40 to 11:45 a. m. we made a quick-count of 700 birds emerging. About 10 stragglers came out in the next few minutes and that was all. How many emerged before I saw them is, of course, unknown. There was no fire in the boiler. It was almost threatening rain at 8 a. m. (C. W. T.) but shortly afterwards the sky inproved considerably. The sun was out in full force when I saw the birds. Temperatures were moderate. Swifts usually stay within 5 to 6 feet of the top and then should have, under above conditions, emerged about 9 a. m.—BEN B. COFFEY, JR., Memphis, Tenn.

HUMMING BIRD TAKES A SHOWER BATH: On Sunday morning, Oct. 5., 1942, at eleven o'clock, I was ascending the back steps to my apartment when I noticed a very small object sitting on a light wire that leads from the apartment to the garage. As it was beginning to rain, I hastened to cover but after reaching shelter I turned and saw that the object was a female Ruby-throated Hummingbird. The rain began to increase steadily and the bird remained on the wire apparently having the time of her life, for she vibrated her wings so rapidly, at intervals of 2 or 3 minutes, that she almost fell off the wire. Fascinated by this unusual demonstration, I remained on the back porch for more of it. The rain increased until it became quite a hard shower before the hummingbird flew to a dead branch of a pear tree about fifteen feet away. Here the bird resumed her antics again at about the same intervals. I saw that the bird wiped her bill on the branch just as any other bird would do, but not once did I see her preen her feathers. At 11:30, the rained ceased and the hummer flew gaily away to a blooming shrub in the rear of the garden and began to flit from blossom to blossom as if there had been no shower.—SCOTT HUTCHISON, 2109 Herbert Ave., Memphis, Tenn.

EDITOR'S NOTE.— Some years ago, Mr. Gordon Hicks, of Tullahoma, Tenn. told me of a Hummer that was in the habit of taking its bath by flying repeatedly thru the spray thrown from a revolving lawn sprinkler. At the St. Louis Zoo, there is a small hummingbird room occupied by a number of live birds and in this compartment there are growing plants, feeding devices and water-mist sprays. The birds delight in flying thru or sitting in the mist thrown off by the sprays. A hummer's feet are so close to its belly that they are practically without legs so they cannot bathe in shallow water as other birds do.—A. F. G.

A BLACK VULTURE'S NEST AT REELFOOT LAKE: Most observers at "Cranetown" on the west side of Reelfoot Lake have seen Black Vultures flying overhead, but nests have not been reported from this region. On May 15, '42, Dr. Mayfield, Roger T. Peterson, and myself found a nest with two eggs, apparently newly laid, only a few inches above water level, in a hollow log lying in the marshy swamp not far from Cranetown. This very late nesting is apparently correlated with the high water earlier in the spring, as on a trip a month earlier that same log was almost submerged. Other nests of interest found on the two trips into the swamps included those of Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Great-horned Owl, Peregrine Falcon and Red-shouldered Hawk. Although several Barred Owls and one Red-tailed Hawk were seen, no nests were found. The high water at the time of the first trip (April 20) had greatly restricted the area of the few low islands in the swamp. Rabbits were frequently seen and there was much evidence that deer used these restricted land areas extensively. On one occasion at least twelve deer were surprised into headlong flight, their surging leaps through the knee-high water making an astonishing roar.—WALTER R. SPOFFORD, Nashville, Tenn.

ROOSTING OF PURPLE MARTINS AND BRONZED GRACKLES: Late one afternoon in late August of this year I noticed from my backyard, in a crowded residential area here in Corinth, numbers of Purple Martins flying from the southwest toward the northeast. There were enough of them to attract attention, so soon I realized that every one of the many that were in the air was flying in exactly the same way; that is to say, each came from and went the same directions followed by all the others. It was evident that the Martins had some method in their flight. They were cavorting along leisurely, just before the hour of dust, but headed for a fixed goal. To check up a bit more on the birds, at the same hour the next afternoon I went to the west side of town to a large vacant lot where my vision would be unobstructed. The performance of the day before was repeated to the last detail. My curiosity being aroused, I decided to follow the Martins to find where they were going. I went as straight to the big American Elm where they were roosting as I would have gone had I known where it was in the beginning. The Martins were there in such large numbers I could hardly estimate them. A thousand would be an understatement. I watched the tree for several afternoons, then the Martins disappeared and came back to the tree no more. The point of interest in all this, as I saw it, was that the birds evidently spent the daylight hours some distance from their roost, all being generally in the same part of the country. So far as I could tell none came into the roost from any direction except from the southwest. And while on the subject of the purple Martin, there is a bit of real music in one or two of his notes—a soft, mellow kind of whistle. I do not recall a similar note in any other bird.

While driving from Memphis to Selmer, Tenn., late in the afternoon of Nov. 27, just before reaching Selmer I saw a veritable dark cloud of birds fly across the road a few hundred yards ahead. Of course I knew they were Bronzed Grackles. It was almost dark, and I thought that every bird in the country had gone to roost, but not so with the Grackles. As I came to a small swamp, through which the paved highway ran, the birds increased in numbers—so much so that if I were to make a guess no one would believe me. Of course every observer of birds in this general section of the country has seen the common blackbirds literally in droves of thousands. But I do believe in the present case that it was not simply a big drove of blackbirds, but rather a drove in which all the other droves from far and near had come to join forces with all the others. They dropped down into the tall reeds, grasses, and willow shrubs like—well, like blackbirds. There were other thousands in tall trees nearby; vast patches of solid black. Then farther down the small bottom I could see others in numbers impossible to calculate. The particular swamp where they were going to roost was not a large one. Only a few acres along the side of the highway. They were nestling down into the thick cover that grew there. I have known of course that such a spot is the home of the Red-wing, and that the Grackles range in such places to considerable degree, but I had not known before that the latter would roost close to the ground. The temperature was near freezing; so apparently the birds were finding protection against the weather as well as against enemies that could get at them better in places less easy of access.—BENJ. R. WARRINER, Corinth, Miss.

A LECONTE'S SPARROW AT CLARKSVILLE: For some years we have been on the lookout for a LeConte's Sparrow, but it was not until Nov. 26, 1942, that we finally succeeded in adding it to our Montgomery County list. On that day, while looking for Savannah Sparrows with my son Edward, we kicked up a small bird near a little puddle in short green meadow grass.

It flew to the edge of a cornfield and would not flush again but kept running ahead trying to keep hidden behind thin, dry grass. Perceiving that its tactics were unusual, we collected the specimen and found it to be a LeConte's, in the rich buffy plumage of fall.—ALFRED CLEBSCH, Clarksville, Tenn.

NOTES FROM THE NASHVILLE AREA: The season up to the present writing has been one of comparatively mild weather throughout the fall. Birds in general appear to be much more common than usual, especially Juncos and Song Sparrows. Other species that seem to be here in greater numbers are the Brown Creeper, Golden-crowned Kinglet, and the Carolina Wren which has come back remarkably well after the disastrous winter of 1940. Kildeers have also recovered from the extreme cold of that winter, and are nearly back up to their normal numbers. Song Sparrows outnumber the White-throats, while Field Sparrows seem somewhat scarcer than usual. Two unusual records for the King Rail have come to light during the period, one a bird that apparently had flown into a building was picked up in front of the Vanderbilt University library on Nov. 3, and the other specimen was shot by a hunter on Jan. 2, 7 miles east of town. These two birds, which constitute a late migration record and a first winter record for Tennessee, are now in Mr. Ganier's collection.——A Lesser Yellowlegs found Nov. 8 on Radnor Lake by Dr. Spofford was a very late transient.——A number of visits to Radnor Lake by Messrs. Ganier, Jamison, Spofford, Mayfield and Mrs. Laskey and the following waterfowl were listed there: Common Loon, 1 each on Nov. 2 and 8; Horned Grebe, 12 on Oct. 18; Pied-billed Grebe, 1 on Nov. 2 and 2 on Nov. 29; Geese, local papers reported many flocks passing over on Nov. 8, a flock of 8 Canadas spent several days on the Lake after Nov. 28. (Note also the Snow Geese listed on Dec. 20 census on Cumberland River); Common Mallard, 45 on Nov. 8, 30 on Nov. 21, and 11 on Nov. 29; Baldpate, 6 on Nov. 29; Ringneck, 40 on Nov. 8, 20 on Nov. 29; Canvasback, 1 on Nov. 21; Lesser Scaup, 3 on Nov. 21, 20 on Nov. 29; Hooded Merganser, 5 on Nov. 21, 6 on Nov. 29; and Red-breasted Merganser, 1 on Nov. 29. Additional wildfowl listed there, on Dec. 20 and Dec. 27 by George Woodring, will be found in the Christmas census.——An immature Bald Eagle was captured near Lebanon on Nov. 16 and further details are given in the item which follows. ——A Sharp-shinned Hawk was seen by Dr. Spofford on Dec. 26 and another on our Fall Field Day of Oct. 18.——There has been one Chimney Swift banding this fall. On Oct. 11, near 16th and Broad, approximately 3,000 birds were banded of which about 300 were returns and recoveries.——A flock of about 5,000 Grackles, that had been about for several days, flew over Mrs. Laskey's home on Nov. 23, enroute to their roost. This is a rather late date for such a flock.——Robins, by Dec. 26, seemed to be returning as the writer saw numerous flocks on that date in Westmeade.—CONRAD JAMISON, JR., Nashville, Tenn.

WHERE EAGLES ROOST: The capture of a fully grown Bald Eagle, in immature plumage, near Lebanon, Tenn., on the night of Nov. 17 last, shed some interesting light on this subject. Two youths accompanied by their dogs were possum hunting and while traversing a woods, startled a hugh bird that had been roosting on the limb of a large tree about 20 feet overhead. In attempting flight, the bird struck branches in the darkness and came to the ground. After some little time, during which the dogs were badly scratched by the bird's talons the eagle, as it proved to be, was caught and taken home. Dr. W. R. Spofford made an investigation on Nov. 28, gathered further information, identified the bird and advised the holders of the illegality of keeping it a captive. He found that it had abstained from eating a dead chicken that had been put in the cage but readily ate rabbits, showing that these were its normal prey. An attache of the State Division of Fish and Game confiscated the eagle on Dec. 5 and released it, still in excellent condition, on Short Mountain.—A. F. GANIER, Nashville, Tenn.

COOPER'S HAWK MAKES AIR ATTACK ON THE BLACK VULTURE: This observation was made October 18 on the edge west of Edwin Warner Park from the road leading towards and about a mile from the covered bridge. A lone Cooper's Hawk was seen circling about as if locating prey at about three times the height of the nearby tallest oaks. Within a few minutes a Black Vulture approached and lingered in the vicinity. The hawk with apparent indignation soared higher and made a nose dive at the new comer. It was evident that the vulture was on the defensive and dodged. Several such attacks were made with a seemingly hesitancy on the part of the hawk to make direct attack with his victim. Then two other Black Vultures and another Cooper's Hawk approached. The second vulture to come on the scene of action showed a contrasting eagerness to enter in this battle of the air. The hawk first mentioned seemed to sense this and made a dive from above at the new intruder. Here he met retaliation by a nimble dodge and comeback. The hawks stayed decidedly on the offensive, but the vultures soon drifted off with more of dignity than of cowards.—VERA MCELWEEN, Nashville, Tenn.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Since the above observation was in autumn rather than in mating season, no question of territory defence would have been involved, and because of different feeding habits, neither would it have been caused by competition of food. The writer feels safe to conclude that it was a demonstration of "play" rather than a real attack. Similar demonstrations have been recorded, between a Sparrow Hawk and pigeons by Warriner, and between a Marsh Hawk and Crows by the writer, both notes having been published in THE MIGRANT for Dec.,1937, p. 38. Interflock demonstrations of play among Crows is a frequently witnessed occurence.—A. F. G.

BLUE JAYS BURYING FOOD: At various times during the month of December, 1942, I have watched an interesting procedure when two Blue Jays took advantage of an abundant supply of food to store a goodly portion of the surplus before other birds could eat it. One morning after a quantity of cornbread had been thrown on the ground at the rear of the house, I happened to see a Jay fly from the food to the front lawn with a piece of corn muffin in his beak. First he attempted to push it into the carpet of Norway Spruce leaves under that tree. This place did not seem satisfactory for he hopped a few feet to the pin oak, again pushed the bread into the ground, next he grasped an oak leaf in his beak, placing it carefully over the bread and adding one or two more. It was so completely concealed that to find it, I had to hunt under a number of small leaf mounds. Another morning a liberal feeding of sunflower seeds had been put out for the flock of Cardinals that came daily. . Soon afterward I was astonished to see a Blue Jay arrive, apparently gobble 7 to 10 unshelled seeds, fly to a rear perch with one seed in the beak. The two banded Jays alternated coming and going to various spots in the rear and side border of trees and shrubs. Finally one chose a conspicuous perch giving me a good view of his actions. He flew to the ground, pressed his beak downward, placed a leaf, hopped a foot or so and repeated the procedure several times before returning to the house to pick up more seeds. It is not known if the Jays returned to these caches when hungry but I do know that a Crow may remember the spot and later return to hidden food and eat it. I have seen a hand-raised Crow hide bread in crevices, poking it as deep as possible, cover with dead leaves and some hours later return to the place, pull out the wad of leaves with his beak and eat the food. It is quite possible that Blue Jays, like squirrels, inadvertently assist nature to some extent by planting large seeds at some distance from the parent stock.—AMELIA R. LASKEY, Nashville, Tenn.

CONNECTICUT WARBLER SEEN AT NASHVILLE: Due to the misunderstanding of someone reporting data to Mr. Conrad Jamison for THE SEASON, MIGRANT, V. 13, p. 46, a Mourning Warbler was reported seen by me. The record should have read Connecticut Warbler seen May 19, 1942. The bird, a singing male, was closely observed as it faced me from a sapling at the edge of a thicket adjacent to our place. I believe it stayed nearby for three days as the songs were heard occasionally from various shrubbery clumps but I was never able to get a view of it again. The song sounded more like a Kentucky Warbler's than any with which I am familiar. AMELIA R. LASKEY, Nashville, Tenn.

WINTERING OF RED-HEADED WOODPECKERS NEAR NASHVILLE: In winter, the Red-headed Woodpecker is generally a bird that is hard to find in the Nashville area, so the finding of a number of these birds wintering the present season is of interest. The birds were first discovered on Nov. 1, in the Westmeade open woodland, about 7 miles west of Nashville, The writer heard them calling and upon investigation counted 11 of them in the area. About two-thirds of those observed were in immature plumage. They were busily engaged in storing away an abundant acorn crop, chiefly if not altogether those of the chestnut oak, the acorns of which are small and not bitter. There were no beech trees in this area. On Nov. 15, 12 birds were found in the locality. One immature bird was watched as he energetically constructed his first roosting cavity and working away, without previous experience or "instruction," he was producing a very neat job. He paid little attention to the group of bird students watching from 30 feet below, diving into the cavity and then backing out with a beak full of "saw-dust." On Dec. 20, I visited the locality and counted 16 of the woodpeckers. Dec. 26, I again visited the place, and spent most of the day observing them. Although I did not cover the entire area, as on previous occasions, I counted nine birds. Individual birds seemed to have staked out a rather definite territory as I saw no bird wander very far, nor did I see two birds close together at any time. Most of the immature birds were now in adult plumage or in the process of changing from immature to adult colors. The moult of the head feathers seemed to progress from the back of the neck toward the top of the head and black ones were replacing the gray ones in the back. I heard one bird repeatedly give a rather high pitched squeal as it fussed at a Fox Squirrel.

The woodpecker would "stoop" at the squirrel on a limb, much in the same manner that a falcon stoops at its prey. Perhaps this squirrel had been caught stealing the acorns the woodpecker had so providently stored for its winter use. I also saw one of the birds catching flying insects in an approved flycatcher manner, as it often does in summer. From its perch on the tip of a dead stub, it would suddenly dart out and upward some 15 or 20 feet to catch the insect, then return quickly to the perch from which it started. As an interesting sequel to these observations, one of our members included the area in his Christmas Census route, arriving during a steady, gusty rain, but not one of the birds would poke their heads out of the roosting cavities they had found or constructed for just such inclement weather. So, after being dead sure of getting a lot of Red-headed Woodpeckers on his census, it fell the lot of another party to record a lone individual from another locality.—CONRAD JAMISON, JR., Nashville, Tenn.

WREN EVICTS A TURTLE: Last spring, a pair of Carolina Wrens decided to build a nest for themselves in a flower box on the front porch of a friend of mine. My friend was first attracted to the nest by noticing that some dirt had been scratched out upon the floor just under the wire rack on which the flower box rested. Upon close examination it was found that the birds had dug a hole in the dirt in the box and was then lining it with green moss, leaves and other materials. In due time, the nest was completed and contained 4 eggs. About this time the family left home for a week or more, leaving instructions for the servant to feed the small turtles in the glass bowl on the top shelf of the flower rack, just above the wren's nest. The servant, forgetting how much food to give them, proceded to give what would have been a year's rations. As a result, the water turned nearly black and the small turtles were hidden from view. When the family returned and learned what had been done, they poured out the entire contents of the jar and put in clear water. Up to this time, the wrens had not been aware of the presence of the little reptiles, but as soon as the mother bird espied them, she flew to the bowl, grasped one of them by the nect, threw it to the floor and proceeded to beat it with her wings and peck it. As the turtle drew in its head and closed its shell the wren seemed satisfied that she had dispatched it and flew back to her nest.—H. S. VAUGHN, Nashville.

SOME NOTES ON HAWKS: Late in October, as I drove through my pasture to the highway, a small hawk stooped at a squirrel which was playing at the foot of a tree. It passed within 10 feet of the car and I noted that it was darker and had broader wings than the Sparrow-Hawks which are always present about my house. This hawk lit in a dead tree-top so I stopped the car to inspect it more closely and found it to be a Pigeon Hawk. In November, while standing in front of the house, I heard the cry of a Red-Shouldered Hawk close by and looking up, saw it alight in an oak tree a few rods away. It flew immediately and had not gone 50 yards before it's place was taken by a Pigeon Hawk. These little falcons are seldom seen here and these are the first I have seen in several years.

I have a female Sharp-shinned Hawk, which I keep on a bow-perch in my yard. The perch is surrounded by a wire fense to keep out dogs and cats. Recently, stepping out the front door, I saw another hawk hopping about on the outside of the fence evidently trying to get in. It was a male Cooper's

Hawk and of course flew away as I approached. It had evidently come in low and was stopped by the fence. It may have been attracted by the feathers of a sparrow that my hawk had eated a short time before. My little hawk is usually very much frightened by a larger hawk sailing close overhead but she did not seem to mind this Coopers, not even leaving the perch. A short time ago however, when I left the house one evening, I saw a Red-shouldered Hawk fly out of my Sharp-shin's pen. The latter was flying about at the end of her leash, but was uninjured and did not seem frightened when I went to her. Perhaps she is getting used to larger hawks from seeing me carrying a Peregrine Falcon that has recently come into my possession. The intrusion of the larger hawks in the Sharp-shin's pen suggests that in the wild, the larger species habitually rob the smaller ones of their prey whenever the opportunity is offered.—DAN R. GRAY, Mt. Pleasant, Tenn.

PALM WARBLERS WINTERING: On Dec. 19, 1942, I identified at my home near Columbia, Tenn., a very unusual visitant in the shape of a Yellow Palm-Warbler (*Dendroica palmarum hypochrysea*). A few days later, on Dec. 23, while listing birds about the nearby Hoover and Mason lake, I found five more. All of these birds were observed at close quarters and I am sure of their identification. I understand that they were also recorded on Christmas census lists from Murfreesboro and Knoxville.—PVT. HARRY YEATMAN, Camp Davis, N. Car.

CHRISTMAS CENSUS AT GREENEVILLE: (Reed farm along Roaring Fork Creek, Lick Creek).—Dec. 23; 10 a. m. to 4:30 p. m. cloudy all day, with showers; wind very light, east; temp. 44° at start, 47° at return. One observer, 3 miles on foot and 8 miles by car: Turkey Vulture, 1; Sparrow Hawk, 5; Mourning Dove, 178; Flicker, 3; Pileated Woodpecker, 2; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 4; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 2; Prairie Horned Lark, 52; Blue Jay, 10; Crow, 600; Chickadee, 6; Tufted Titmouse, 5; White-breasted Nuthatch, 2; Bewick's Wren, 2; Carolina Wren, 13; Mockingbird, 7; Robin, 1; Bluebird, 4; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 2; Cedar Waxwing, 43; Migrant Shrike, 1; Starling, 327; Myrtle Warbler, 4; English Sparrow, 27; Meadowlark, 6; Cardinal, 17; Goldfinch, 35; Towhee, 2; Junco, 5; Field Sparrow, 12; White-crowned Sparrow, 3; White-throated Sparrow, 5; Song Sparrow, 7; Total, 34 species; 1,395 individuals.—RUTH REED NEVIUS, Greeneville, Tenn.

NOTES FROM THE KNOXVILLE CHAPTER.—Our activities have been varied and interesting during the past fall. In September, we trapped 2112 Chimney Swifts at the U. T. Law College. All were banded except about 10 percent which had previously been banded here and 15 birds which wore "foreign" bands placed by banders in other states or cities.——At our October meeting, Dr. Henry Meyer gave a paper on "The interpretation of bird behavior." A feature of the November meeting was a talk by Mrs. Robert A. Monroe in which she gave us a glimpse of the Sierras and told us of the life of John Muir and of the habits of the Water Ouzel.——The October Field Day was held on the Ogden farm near the airport. In November, we combined forces with the Smoky Mountains Hiking Club and made a trip to the Greenbrier region of the Park. Our December field trip comprised the 6th annual X-mas bird census of the Great Smokies and our 20 members, after the days search "from top to bottom," gathered at the home of the Stupkas, our host, for supper, and found we had reached the excellent total of 48 species and 1178 individuals. The list, personnel and other data, are given on another page. Our officers for 1943, are: Pres., Ed. W. Dougherty, Vice-pres. Dr. Henry Meyer, Curator Wm. M. Walker, Jr., and Secty.-Treas., the writer—ELISE MORRELL, 148 W. Peachtree St., Knoxville, Tenn.

FALL FIELD DAY AT NASHVILLE: The Nashville Chapter, T. O. S., enjoyed a perfect day for its Fall Field Day, Oct. 18, 1942. The weather was bright with sunshine and crisp enough to be invigorating. Several members from a distance joined 45 of our local members for the days tramp afield. Dividing into several groups, these radiated from the picnic grounds on Little Harpeth River in Edwin Warner park, 10 miles west of Nashville. The terrain covered included valley, meadows, wooded pastures and the picturesque high hills. At one o'clock we reassembled to compare our finds, and to eat our lunches, topped off with a cup of Dr. Vaughn's renowned campfire coffee. After lunch we again indulged in shorter hikes. Many members of long standing declared this to have been one of the club's most enjoyable outings. So, come what may, we know we can find a bit of peace and relaxation from the distractions of a warring world, among our Harpeth Hills and valleys. Our composite list showed 60 species of birds, as follows: Horned Grebe, Mallard, Blue-wing Teal (these three at Radnor Lake), Turkey and Black Vultures, Osprey, Sharp-shinned, Cooper's, Red-tailed, Marsh and Sparrow Hawks, Bob-white, Kildeer, Dove, Great Horned Owl, Kingfisher, Flicker, Pileated, Red-bellied, Red-headed, Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Phoebe, Blue Jay, Crow, Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Winter, Carolina and Bewick's Wrens, Mockingbird, Robin, Hermit Thrush, Bluebird, Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Cedar Waxing, Starling, White-eyed Vireo, Blue-headed Vireo (1), Black-and-white Warbler, Myrtle Warbler, English Sparrow, Meadowlark, Bronzed Grackle (huge flocks), Cowbird, Indigo Bunting, Goldfinch, Cardinal, Red-eyed Towhee, Slate-colored Junco, Savannah, Chipping, Field, White-throated, Swamp and Song Sparrows.—KATHERINE ANDERSON, (Sect'y), Nashville, Tenn.

IN THE ARMED SERVICE: Ben B. Coffey and Carlyle D. Chamber-(of K. O. S. at Louisville) were, until Christmas, members of the same Field Artillery Regiment unit at Ft. Bragg, N. Car; Ben is now in training at Ft. Sill, Okla. Austin W. Burdick, now at L. S. U., is expecting to be in southern Mexico during January, after which he is scheduled to enter the army. Pvt. Harry C. Yateman, of Columbia, is stationed in N. Car, his address being Med. Det. 479 CA, Bn (AA), Camp Davis, N. Car. Robert Norris editor of Georgia's *The Oriole*, enters the Navy in January. Albert F. Ganier, Jr., has recently been promoted to the rank of Major, division of Field Artillery. Charles Vaughn, veteran airways pilot, is now flying transport planes across the ocean. Burt Monroe of Louisville is stationed with army air forces in Wyoming. If we have missed any, let us know.

MEMPHIS CHAPTER, T. O. S., meets on third Mondays. Their officers are Mrs. M. L. Torti, Pres., Mary Davant, Vice-pr., Lawrence Kent, Treas., and Pauline James, Secty. Contact officers for place of meeting.

# THE MIGRANT

A QUARTERLY JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE STUDY OF TENNESSEE BIRDS
PUBLISHED BY THE TENNESSEE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Supported by membership dues of $1 per year. Please remit to
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Bruce P. Tyler, Johnson City; Alfred Clebsch, Clarksville.

*The simple truth about birds is interesting enough,*
*it is not necessary to go beyond it."*

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## EDITOR'S CHAT

Your editor wishes to express his appreciation to those of our members who have so generously sent in the 30 articles and items which go to make up this issue. The excellent cooperative Christmas census, participated in by 84 members, rolledup the remarkable statewide total of 108 species despite the fact that some of our best observers were away in the armed services. In Dr. Pickering's article on Reelfoot Lake birds, he literally takes us on an autumn vacation to this unique haven where water birds—strangers to most of us—are to be found in great variety. Dr. Mayfield, in explaining the extent to which the Starling mimics other birds, incidently puts us on our guard against listing the return of spring migrants by their calls alone. Harry P. Ijams, pioneer observer and artist for our cover, has served us a real "scoop" in rounding up the record of that big flock of Sandhills. Dr. Spofford, combining the technique of the anatomist with a love of falconry, has made the most of the opportunity to observe and describe the orderly process of the Gyrfalcons moult, from a brownish immature to its splendid white and black plumage of maturity. Messrs. Jamison and Simpson, dependable and energetic young men who "have what it takes" to climb big trees, have found out and told us, in this and past articles, a lot that wasn't known about "round-the-clock" nesting of Barn Owls. The Round Table is full to overflowing with items of interest about our Tennessee birds but space forbids more detailed comment. For our next issue, appearing in early spring, we have saved out some interesting nesting notes and more of these are solicited. Meanwhile, our members should be taking and sending in notes that may develop from their trips afield during the winter. Your editor would like to have a symposium upon how and where birds roost, especially from mid-winter until the leaves come again to offer protection, so, be making observations. To our members in the armed services, this issue constitutes "a letter from home" and during 1943 there will be four more to reach you. —A. F. G.

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A species index for vols. 12, 13 and 14, will be published in the Dec. 1943 issue. Such indices were printed in the issues of Dec. 1937 and Dec. 1940.

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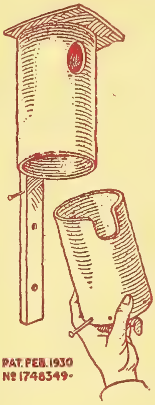

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DEVOTED TO TENNESSEE BIRDS

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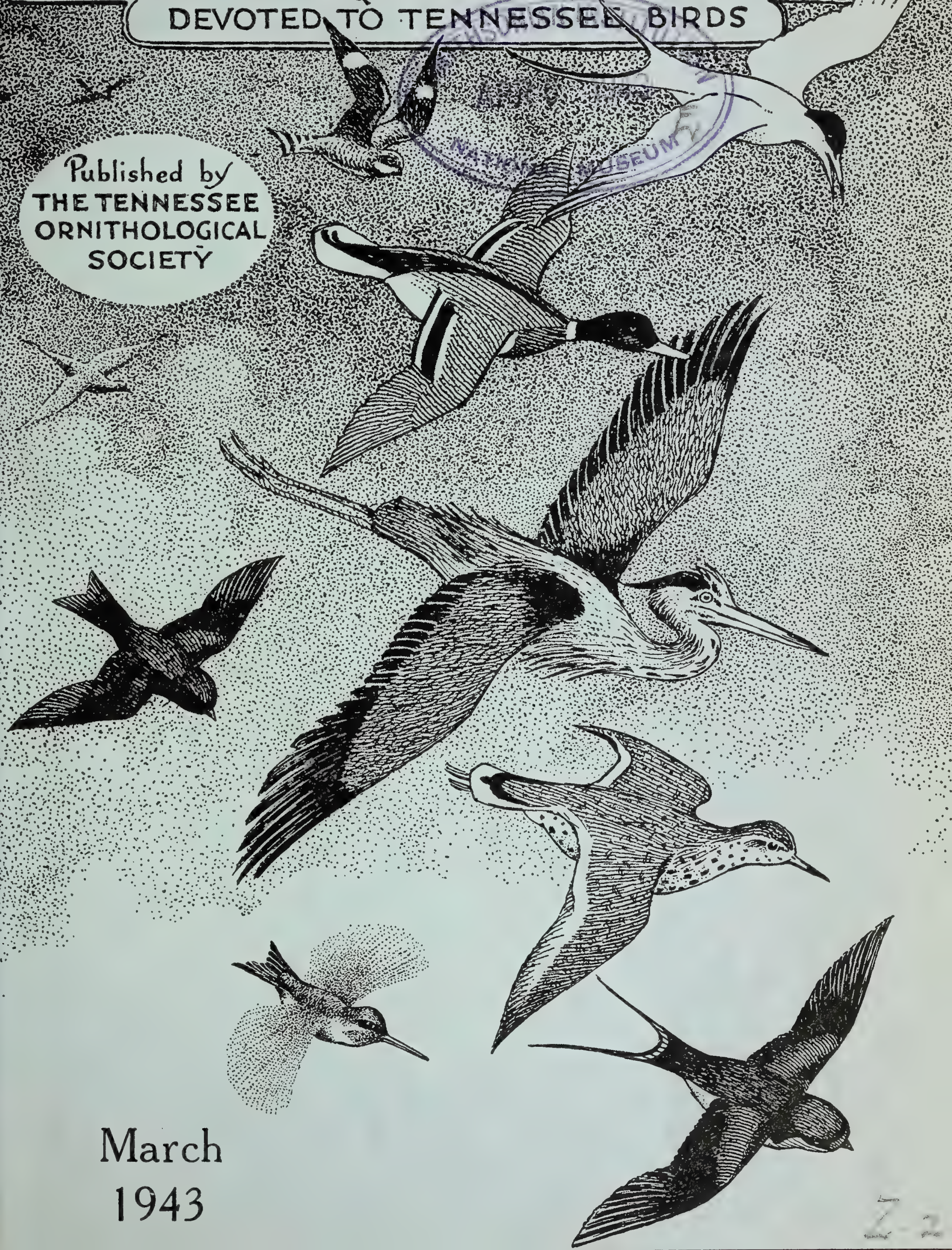

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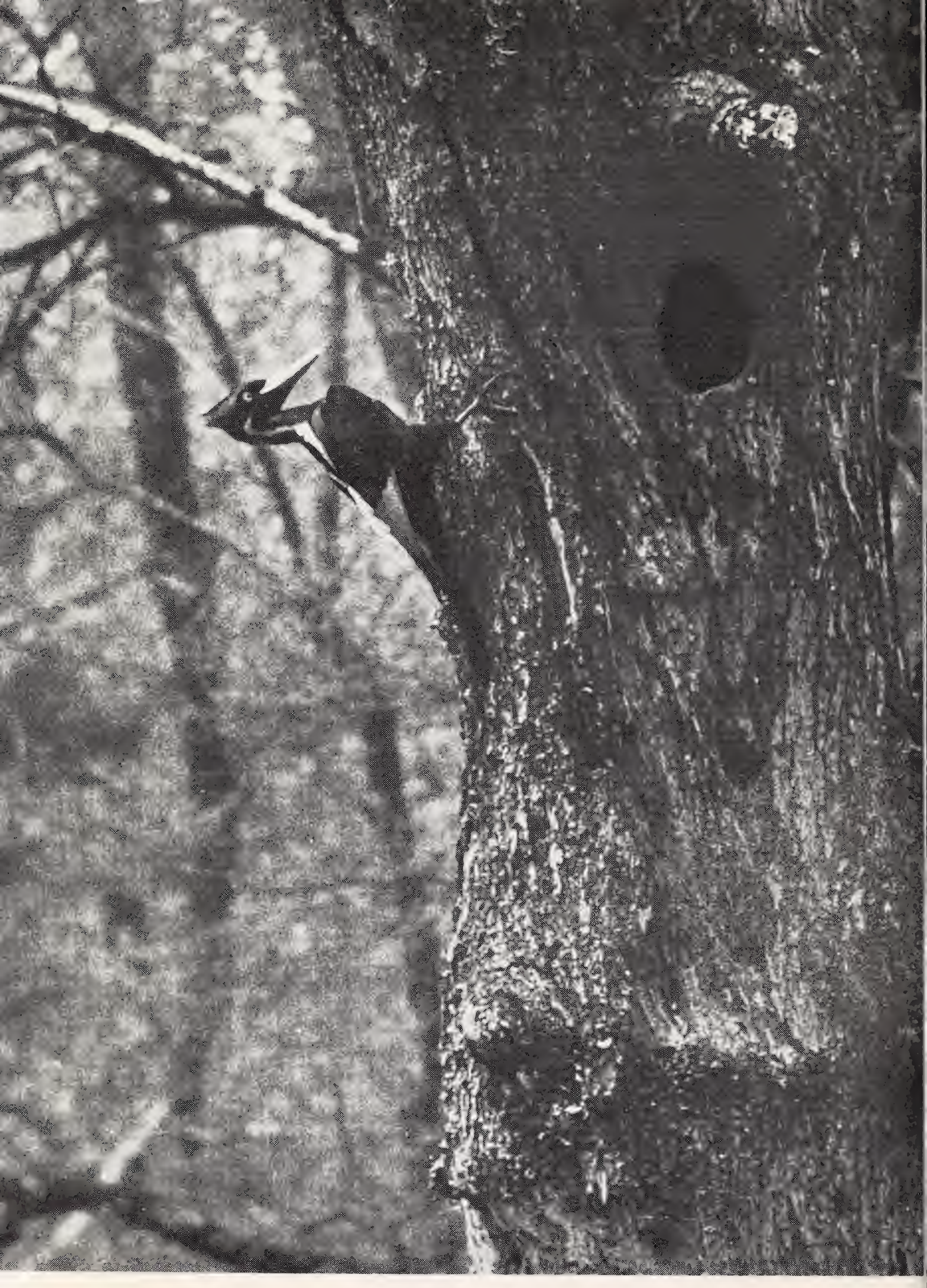

IVORY-BILLED WOODPECKER AT ITS NEST
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# THE MIGRANT

VOL. XIV. MARCH, 1943 No. 1

**Published by the Tennessee Ornithological Society, to Record and Encourage the Study of Birds in Tennessee. Issued in March, June, September and December**

## HOW BIRDS SPEND THEIR WINTER NIGHTS

### A SYMPOSIUM BY T. O. S. MEMBERS

In mid-winter, birds spend more than half of their time at roost. During this time they gather no food but must retain a bodily warmth considerably greater than that of humans. When we consider our own dry and heated habitations and provisions for a warm night's sleep, we wonder unendingly how such small and fragile creatures as birds can live the long, cold nights thru when hard rains, sleet and bitter north winds add to their discomfort and peril. Little specific data has been published on this subject, so a symposium was called for and what may be regarded as a first installment is given below. A good deal has been made known of the communal roosts of gregarious species, such as those of the Grackles, Robins Swifts etc., and to keep this article to its assigned length, reports on these have been deferred to a future issue.—EDITOR.

By SCOTT HUTCHISON, Memphis, Tenn.—The following observations have been made about my home in the suburbs. A female Flicker sleeps in my 30 room Martin box, using a front room, on the first floor on the east side. A male Flicker roosts in a one room box about 150 feet away. This box was designed for Crested Flycatchers and the Flicker enlarged the hole to accommodate his greater size.——In February, 1942, I often heard the lusty call of a Carolina Wren just after daylight and in the late afternoon about 30 minutes before dark. On several afternoons I watched in order to locate the bird's roosting place but was unsuccessful. One evening as I watched the songster, he suddenly flew toward the ground and darted thru a latticed fence. Just beyond, an old grey shirt hung on a clothes line just under the roof of the garage. It had hung there sometime and a sleeve thrown over the line formed a pocket of its upper half. I brushed by this as I passed and out flew my Wren. From a nearby hiding place, I saw the bird return and dart into the sleeve. This roost continued to be used for nearly two months and on occasions I visited the sleeper at night and, observing with a shielded flashlight, found him fast asleep with his head behind a wing and his tail always toward the opening.——A male and a female Cardinal sleep in the shrubs on the east side of the house. A Mockingbird drove them away from a privet hedge on the west side, presumably because there were berries there.——Two Starlings were roosting in February in another, smaller, Martin box but their occupancy was irregular. One was seen carrying leaves into a box, the first of February. I suppose this was nesting material, rather than "bedding."

APR 6 43

By ALFRED CLEBSCH, Clarksville, Tenn.:—Many of our small winter birds seek the protection of honeysuckle (*lonicera*) and other evergreen thickets when darkness falls. They fly towards them in short dashes and their movements show wariness. Towhees and Cardinals turn in early, White-throats, Song and Swamp Sparrows follow, while the Chickadees linger awhile. But it isn't long before the feeding grounds are still and from the vine-covered slopes come bed-time calls from one bird to another. I visited such roosting place one night after a winter census. My dog, "Pal," was prowling through the honeysuckle and aroused one of the sleepers, but suddenly he came cowering to my side. I looked up and saw a Barred Owl glide toward us noiselessly. Then in the moonlight the Owl must have caught sight of us. He veered off and strong beats of his wings sent him away.——We wonder what other birds do on winter nights and catch but few glimpses. Late one November afternoon when a raw chill wind struck out of the west I flushed a Bluebird from a Robin's nest up in a medium sized maple tree. The wind ruffled his feathers badly and while I was watching he returned and settled back into the nest. Sometimes we may read the signs and guess what happened. After the cold weather in January, 1940, I found droppings in a number of old nests and concluded they must have given shelter to some winged travellers. That year I saw places where Horned Larks and Longspurs had roosted on the ground in the scant protection of frozen clods among the rubbish of disked cornstalks.——Of man-made structures, the iron trusswork of bridges and water-tanks has come to my notice as the resting place chosen by Flickers. Walking home in pouring rain from our last winter census I scared out two of them in the middle of the afternoon from the steel span across McAdoo Creek and near my home is a water tank in whose supports I have also found Flickers roosting in sheltered niches.

By AMELIA R. LASKEY, Nashville, Tenn.—An article "Where Wild Birds Sleep" by S. F. Aaron (*Dearborn Independent* 1927), in which the author described his patient search for the roosting places of many species, his success in many cases and complete bafflement in others, aroused my interest in this phase of bird life. I began keeping notes on my own observations. Aside from the numerous roosts of Crows and the mixed flocks ofGrackles, Starlings, Redwings, Rusty Blackbirds, Martins, and Robins at various locations, the greater part of my data was obtained about my home.— Mourning Doves go to roost about dusk. A magnolia tree was often used, particularly in February and March. Two birds frequently wished to use it but one would finally leave for other quarters. Tall privet was used and later in the season, deciduous growth shrubbery, hackberry and catalpa trees.—Cedar Waxwings in flocks of 10-30 have been found in a spruce tree, a magnolia, tall lilac bushes, plum thicket and among the brown dried leaves still clinging to the lower branches of the pin oak in very early spring. The lilacs and plum trees were used in late spring. They too often go to roost early; April 18, 1942 at 6:40 P. M. when the sun was still high in the west, I was startled by the explosive flight of a flock from a plum thicket that I had not seen as I approached.——In April 1942 I banded an ingenious pair of Carolina Wrens that Francis Lawrence had discovered one night in his garage when his car lights revealed two little tails protruding from a fold of an old portiere hanging there.——

Mockingbirds often enter buildings for protection from the cold. I have records for a mated pair going into a garage but using seperate perches, two in porches, and one that went down a chimney at dusk. Each winter, evergreen trees and shrubs such as cedar, spruce, and Amoor River privet were used. A beauty bush near the house was occupied in summer. On one night a mated pair roosted on the same twig; it was opposite a window. Once one came in early spring to privet shrubs at the house, tucked her head in her feathers and took a nap in mid-morning.——Bluebirds in Warner Parks regularly use the nest boxes in winter for sleeping quarters, as evidenced by the quantities of regurgitated hackberry seeds and the droppings accumulating there each cold season. At the farm home of Miss Cynthia Tompkins, two Bluebirds furnished considerable amusement as during the 1942-43 winter they squabbled for best position on a ledge under the eaves, visible from indoors. Each wanted the inside spot, repeatedly hopping over and pushing the occupant to the outside.——A Chickadee liked to use a gourd suspended to a tree when the nights were cold.——For many years Slate-colored Juncos, in groups as high as 20, regularly used the dense growth of English ivy on the broad stone chimney of our house for roosting. As this is the outlet from our heating plant, the stone absorbed enough heat to give off warmth which must have made it particularly desirable on cold nights. Juncos began to fly in at 4 p. m. They also have been found in the foundation plantings of evergreens and in a cedar tree. A Towhee sometimes joined the Juncos in the ivy; another was found in the spruce at the front of the lot. Other members of the Sparrow family used the shrubs near the house; in May a Whitethroat used the beauty bush (*Kolquitzia*) which at that time was cascaded with its lovely tiny pink bell-like blossoms. Clumps of privet that formerly grew at the ends of the house were favorites of many small sparrows, including Whitethroats and White-crowns as well as Cardinals. There were many arguments between the latter and the Mockingbirds at deep dusk. A small arborvitae was used in February, 1939, by two recently arrived Chipping Sparrows. Native sparrows also liked the pin oak in December when the twigs, densely covered with cupped brown leaves, gave protective concealment as well as shelter.——In February, Myrtle Warblers were startled more than once from a tangle of coral honeysuckle vines on the south side of the garage where at least two had gone to roost.——In the March, 1942, MIGRANT, p. 14, I gave some observations on the roosting of Bob-whites.

By **BERT POWELL, JR.**, Memphis, Tenn.:—Birds can hide and find shelter in many unusual places and they do not need a place that is warm; only a wind breaker that will give them protection from the wind and, if possible, shelter from rain as well. Hiding in such places birds can weather the coldest blow with comparative comfort. The reason for this is that their feathers, layer over layer, provide excellent insulation. Another factor in their favor is that their heart-beat is more rapid than that of our own and this circulates their blood more rapidly. Given sufficient food, it is improbable that a bird would die from cold.——Last summer we had a morningglory vine twisting up the square brick columns that support the roof of our porch and when winter came on I persuaded my mother to let it remain so it would offer a refuge for the birds. A pair of Cardinals have used this mass of dead vines as a roosting place and every evening we can watch the birds sneak to bed.

They get on the side that gives protection from the wind and the porch roof keeps them dry.——English Sparrows have long found that houses offer good roosting places. At the home of a friend, each column cap of the front porch was found one night to have one of these sparrows crouched upon it. There they found shelter from both wind and rain.——Flickers and perhaps other woodpeckers are having stiff competition for their roosting holes from Starlings. Behind my house is a small woodlot and in it is a large dead tree where Flickers have nested for years and roosted there in winter. On March 1 I saw a Flicker vainly trying to hold his lofty bedroom against the persistent intrusion of a group of Starlings which finally exhausted his energy and patience and caused him to retire in their favor.

JAMES A. ROBINS (Nashville) has recorded in THE MIGRANT (1936, 7: 21) a unique winter roost of a Mockingbird on the Peabody College campus. This bird chose a perch a few inches above an electric bulb on the side of a vine-clad brick building. In its bright, warm radiation this Mocker slept snugly thru the coldest nights.

GEORGE R. MAYFIELD (Nashville) states that he has flushed Bluebirds at dusk that had sought their winter roosting place among the dry leaves of pin oaks that hang on till spring. These large leaves are in bunches and curl up at the tips thus affording obscurity and a degree of shelter. A. F. Ganier and Mrs. Lasky (above) report Cedar Waxwings using these oak leaves similarly, for roosting.

By ALBERT F. GANIER, Nashville:—Mockingbirds often roost upon an old nest of their own or on that of a Thrasher, especially if located in a thorny osage-orange tree and close to the ground and therefore partly screened from the wind. Many have thus been found at dusk and droppings in most such nests during the winter gives further evidence. Other favored roosting sites are privet hedges (until the leaves fall off at midwinter), masses of honeysuckle or greenbrier vines that have climbed, and among the thick branches of catalpa bungei quite often grown in parks and lawns. Twice I have found them gone to roost in a discarded tangle of farmers wire field fence, there safe from intruders at least.——Chickadees and Titmice roost in cavities in winter and that such quarters are often cramped is shown by the fact that many of those that come to my window feeding shelf for breakfast, still have their tails bent. I have captured two that had spent winter nights in low Bluebird boxes at my home.——A Carolina Wren was found roosting on chilly September nights in the pocket of an old coat that had hung for some time on a rear porch. Another habitually roosted between two timbers on the inside of a garage wall. Still another would spend the nights in an old wrens nest in a box placed near the ceiling of a back porch. On March 14, 1943, one took lodging for that (clear) night in a pile of cedar boughs although buildings were near.——Pileated Woodpeckers roosts habitually in a hollow limb or trunk of a live tree, both to avoid the dampness of rotten wood and as security against winter storms which often break off and fell dead trees. There are always two and often three openings provided, possibly for ventilation but more likely to permit rapid exit in case a marauder should enter one of the holes.——Downy Woodpeckers excavate a hole in autumn quite often in a fence post, which location is safe from winter storms. Woodpeckers of all kinds use considerable judgment in not excavating their roosting holes in limbs or trees so rotten that they are likely to be broken by storms.——Flickers are more prone to roost about buildings or in natural cavities. I saw one go into the cavity of a live walnut during January at roosting time. Edgar McNish reported to me that he had seen as many as half a dozen go into the hollow top of a big sycamore to roost.——I believe that Blue Jays regularly roost in natural cavities when cedars are not available and Bluebirds habitually do so. Very good evidence of Jays and Flickers roosting in such cavities is the fact that their feathers are often found in them, showing that they had been captured there by predators. Screech Owls are probably chiefly responsible, for feathers are nearly always found in holes too small to be entered by the larger owls, besides, Flickers and Jays are too heavy for a Screech Owl to transport from elsewhere.——Nuthatches and Brown Creepers probably roost in natural cavities too, although one could conceive that they would have protection from rain and greater security from enemies by roosting under the shingle-like bark of the shag-bark hickory, swamp white oak or similar species.——In late winter, White-throated Sparrows, Juncos and Towhees will roost in a loose flock upon the ground in woods. The place selected is where many leaves have collected in low undergrowth such as buck-bush, cane, greenbrier and blackberry briar. The first two species named also frequently roost amid grass and roosts that overhang creek banks. Along with Cardinals they have a very decided preference also for a dense briar patch.——Meadowlarks, as might be supposed, roost on the ground in grassy fields; not in compact groups but scattered here and there. They may thus be flushed at dusk along with Savannah Sparrows.——On Jan. 13, 1940, in company with Mr. Ben B. Coffey and about 15 miles north of Memphis, we watched Lapland Longspurs go to roost at dusk. There were about 400 in the flock and after flying about in a compact flock, they suddenly dropped to the ground and quickly hid themselves in the thick grass which grew there.

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## SOME AGE RECORDS FOR BANDED BIRDS

*By* AMELIA R. LASKEY

There has been much conjecture upon the longevity of wild birds and until the advent of bird-banding, it was practically impossible to secure definite data on this subject. By the banding method, however, it has been possible to prove that certain individual birds at least do live for a number of years. The following data, accumulated during my banding operations, are here presented as definite information on this interesting problem.

The records of my banding stations at Nashville show that 229 birds (26 species) have been found to have reached the age of 3½ years or more. These records cover nearly 12 years of continuous trapping at my home and periodic trapping at several substations. Grateful acknowledgement is made to those who have assisted at various times.* Since August, 1931, 21,000 birds of 123 species have been banded and in addition, over 36,000 Chimney

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*Norman Tompkins, Mrs. E. C. Hicks, J. B. Calhoun, M. L. Rippy, Jr., Arthur McMurray, Wm. Simpson, F. S. Lawrence, C. Jamison, Jr., F. S. Campbell, M. S. Carter, A. F. Ganier, Mrs. M. Dismukes, J. H. Metcalf, H. C. Monk, H. Seligman, I. Wolfe, and others.

Swifts since 1938. This total of 57,000 birds includes the 13,000 Swifts banded in Nashville under the leadership and Federal permit of J. B. Calhoun, whose records are kept in my file.

For brevity, the tabulations are given in condensed form. All banding numbers have been omitted; a long dash separates the records of individuals. Sex is shown where determined and is indicated by "M" for male and "F" for female. The first date shown represents the date of banding. Ages shown are minimum, since many adults may have been several years old when first trapped.

Of the age records ascertained, 1 was found to be at least 11 years of age, 1 was 10, 1 was 9, 2 were 8, 1 was 7½, 3 were 7, 3 were 6½, 13 were 6, 6 were 5½, 32 were 5, 13 were 4½, 138 were 4, and 14 were 3½ years of age. Of the four-year records, 84 were of Chimney Swifts. A future paper will discuss returns and recoveries of this species.

CHIMNEY SWIFTS: 10/16/28, Chattanooga, Tenn.; retaken Nashville 10/22/39; 11 years——10/9/30, Jasper, Tenn.; retaken Nashville 9/18/39; 9 years.——8/17/34, Illinois; retaken Nashville 10/1/39; 5 years.——5/19/35, Ontario, Canada; retaken Nashville 9/11/40; 6 years.——9/23/34, W. Va.; retaken Nashville 9/7/41; 7 years.——5/16/35, Wisconsin; retaken Nashville 9/13/39; 5 years.——10/2/36, Wisconsin; retaken Nashville 9/14/41; 5 years.——79 banded in Nashville and 2 banded in Clarksville in 1938 were retaken in Nashville in 1942; age 4 years. As less than 200 Swifts were banded in Nashville previous to 1938, it is obvious age records are restricted. One 1938 bird has been retaken in 1939, 1940, 1941, and 1942.

HAIRY WOODPECKER: M; 3/5/33; killed about 4/25/36; 4 years.——M; 4/2/37; retaken 4/17/40; 4 years.

DOWNY WOODPECKER: M; 3/1/32; repeated 4/20/32 and 1/31/34; found dead 9/16/36 near station; 5 year plus.——M; 11/23/33; retaken 5 times, last date 4/12/39; 6 years.——F. 12/5/35; retaken 3/8/39; 4 years.

BLUE JAY: 9/15/32; retaken 5/23/37; 5 years.——4/25/33; shot 6/3/38; 6 years.——7/27/37; retaken 5/24/42; 5 years.

TUFTED TITMOUSE: 2/5/33; repeated 8 times, to 1/2/36; 3½ years.——12/19/35; retaken 4 times, to 1/31/40; 4½ years.——1/8/38; retaken 5 times, to 4/8/42; 5 years.——2/19/38; retaken 6 times, to 11/21/42; 5½ years.

CAROLINA WREN: M; 6/25/34; retaken 20 times, to 1/18/38; 4½ years.——F; 11/19/34; retaken 12 times, to 4/19/39; 5 years.

MOCKINGBIRD: M; 8/27/31; disappeared March '35; 4 years.——4/14/33; disappeared Dec. '35; 3½ years.——9/15/33; retaken 5/27/38; 5 years.——3/10/34; retaken 5/8/41; 8 years.——M; 5/8/35; retaken to 8/5/39; 5 years.——10/3/35; disappeared April '39; 4 years.——F. 3/22/36; shot 1/3/39; 3½ years.——M; 10/1/36; still occupying his territory at my home March '43; almost 7 years.——M; juv.; 5/14/37; killed by cat 6/15/42; 5 years.——9/24/37; reported killed 1/30/41; 3½ years.——M; 9/16/38; retaken 1940 and 3/2/43; 5 years.

CATBIRD: 8/13/31; returned 1932, 33, 34; last date 6/21/34; 4 years. ——6/6/32; retaken 5/13/35; 4 years.——6/24/33; retaken 7/3/36; 4 years. 7/4/33; retaken 1935, 6/19/36; 4 years.——7/5/33; retaken 1935, 4/28/36; 4 years.——5/17/34; retaken 1937; killed by auto, 7/26/37; 4 years.——6/5/34; retaken, last date 9/21/37; 4 years.——7/1/37; returned 1938, 39, 40, 41, last taken 9/10/41; 4 years.——Imm. 9/7/37; retaken 1938, 40, last date 7/19/41; 4 years.——5/18/38; retaken 1939, 40, 5/19/41; 4 years.

BROWN THRASHER: 8/30/32; retaken 1932, 33, 34, 35, to 8/8/35; 4 years.——6/20/33; retaken 1934, 35, 37, 40, to 3/23/40; 8 years.——4/26/36, taken 1937, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42 to 3/16/42; 7 years.——8/19/36; retaken in 38, 39, 40 to 5/16/40; 4 years.

ROBIN: 9/30/31; retaken 1933 and 11/3/35; 4½ years.——M; 9/13/33; found sick, died 3/20/42; 10 years.——F; 9/30/35; last seen 7/4/39; 4 years. ——F; 10/7/35; killed by auto 5/20/39; 4 years.——9/16/36; retaken 1938, 39, 40, to 3/14/40; 4 years.——9/18/36; recovered spring 1940; 4 years.——6/27/37; died 6/2/40; 4 years.——M; 3/11/38; retaken 1939, 1940, to 3/29/41; 4 years.

BLUEBIRD: M; 4/16/32; retaken 1933, 34, to 9/23/34; 3 years.——F; 4/26/36; retaken 1937, 38, 39, to 11/4/39; 4½ years.——F. 5/24/39; retaken 1940, 41, 42, to 4/2/42; 4 years.

STARLING: 1/3/36; found dead Dec. 1940, 5½ years.——3/1/36; returned 1/27/39; 3½ years.

YELLOW WARBLER: 6/16/37; retaken 1938, 5/30/41; 5 years.

NORTHERN YELLOWTHROAT: F; 8/31/32; last taken 7/26/37; 6 years.——Imm. M; 9/9/32; retaken 1933, 34, 35, 36, to 9/19/36; 4 years.——M; 9/1/36; retaken 1937, 39, 41, to 9/16/41; 6 years.——M; 9/13/36; retaken 1937, 38, 39, 40, 41, to 6/28/41; 6 years.

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT: 5/21/36; retaken 1937, 40, to 9/15/40; 5 years.

BRONZED GRACKLE: F; 6/17/32, retaken 7/24/35; 4 years.——M; 3/23/34; retaken 3/22/38; 5 years.——M; 3/18/36; retaken 5/30/41; 6 years. ——Young; 8/31/36; shot 10/11/40; 4 years plus.——F; 7/26/37; retaken 7/2/40; 4 years.——M; 4/1/38; shot 9/13/41; 4 years plus——F; 6/2/28; died April 1942; 5 years.

CARDINAL: M; 2/2/32; retaken until April 1935; 4 years.——F; 12/17/32; retaken 2/26/36; 3½ years.——F; 2/4/33; permanent resident to 9/4/35 3½ years.——M; 7/3/34; retaken 4/16/37; 4 years.——Young M; 10/27/34; retaken 3/17/40; 6 years.——M; 12/17/34: retaken 1/27/40; 5½ years.——M; 9/10/35; found dead 1/1/41; 5½ years.——F; 1/25/36; retaken to 6/7/39; 4 years.——F; 12/16/36; found dead 6/17/40; 4 years.——F; 2/16/37; retaken 3/25/40; 4 years.——juv. F; 8/4/37; found injured 8/14/41; 4 years.——F; 8/20/37; retaken to 11/18/40; 3½ years.——Im. M; 9/3/37; retaken to 3/3/43; 6 years.——Imm. M; 9/3/37; retaken to 1/28/43; 5½ years.——M; 8/31/37; retaken 1/4/42; 4½ years.——F; 3/31/39; retaken 12/31/41; 3½ years.——M; 5/30/39; retaken 3/24/42; 4 years.

INDIGO BUNTING: Imm. M; 8/30/33; returned 1935, 37, 38, found dead 5/19/38; 5 years.J——F; 8/21/34; retaken 1936 and 1938; died 5/26/38; 5 years.——M; 9/9/34; retaken 1935, 10/1/38; 5 years.——M; 5/17/35; retaken 1936, 37, 38, 39, 40, to 6/4/40; 6 years.——M; 5/23/35; retaken 1936, 37, 38, 39, to 5/21/39; 5 years.

GOLDFINCH: F; 8/7/35; retaken 9/3/38; 4 years.——F; 9/28/39; retaken 1940, 41; found dead near station 3/19/42; about 3 years.

RED-EYED TOWHEE: M; 6/26/33; retaken 1/19/36; 3½ years.——Imm. F; 7/17/34 retaken to 9/28/37; 3 years plus.——Young F; 11/29/34; found dead 3/8/39; 5 years.——Imm. F; 8/20/35; retaken to 1939; found dead 9/28/39; 4 years.——Young M; 10/26/35 in Belle Meade; retaken there 1/1/36; retaken 2 miles east 8/3/36; found on road near place of banding 1/31/43 unable to eat or fly, plumage good. There had been 6 days of ice covered ground. Bird fed by hand by A. R. L., recovered, released 2/7/43; flew well; 7½ years.——F; 10/30/35; retaken 1/28/40; 5½ years.——M; 11/13/35; retaken to 4/7/40; 5 years.——Young F; 10/12/36 later nested near station; retaken to 12/20/42; 6½ years.——Young F; 10/27/36; retaken to 2/7/41; 4½ years.——M; 3/25/37; retaken to 7/17/41; 5 years.——Imm. M; 6/30/37; retaken to 5/25/42; 5 years.——Young M; 9/26/37; retaken to 5/17/42; 5 years.

SLATE-COLORED JUNCO: Young M; 2/8/33; retaken 1935, 37, last 12/27/38; 6½ years.——2/11/35; retaken 1935, 36, 37, 39, last 3/23/40; 6 years.——Of others trapped and taken, 4 had lived 5 years, 1 for 4½. 4 for 4, and 3 for 3½ years.

FIELD SPARROW: 10/5/34; retaken each summer to 5/8/40; 6 years.——3/27/33; retaken 1934, 35, 36, 37, to 4/1/37; 5 years.——3/28/33; retaken 1934, 35, 36, 37, to 4/20/37; 5 years.——Imm. 8/3/37; retaken each spring to 3/21/42; 5 years.——Of others trapped and retaken, 5 had lived to 4½ years, and 12 to 4 years. An immature, banded 7/18/33, was retaken 1934, 35, 36 and to 4/3/37, during which period it was captured more than 350 times at the banding station. It left each year by early November and returned each March.

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW: 3/23/32; being in adult plumage, it must have hatched 1930 at the latest; last date retaken 5/3/34; 4 years.——Adult; 11/6/33; retaken 1934, 35, 37, to 3/16/37; 5 years.——Imm. 11/6/33; retaken 1934, 35, 36, 37, to 12/7/37; 4½ years.——Imm. 11/14/33; retaken 1934, 35, 36, to 10/28/37; 4 years.

GAMBEL'S SPARROW: Adult; 2/1/32; being in this plumage, it must have hatched 1930 at the latest; retaken 1933, 1934, to 3/10/34; 4 years.——Imm. 12/11/34; retaken 1935, 37, to 11/25/37; 3 years plus.

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW: F; 11/30/32; retaken 1934 and last 12/6/37; 5½ years.——F; 12/31/34; retaken 1935 and last 2/3/40; 6 years.——Two others banded and retaken had lived between 3 and 3½ years.

SONG SPARROW: 2/2/37; retaken 1938, 1940, 1942 and 2/13/43; 6½ years.——12/16/32; retaken 1/20/36; 3½ years.——Two others trapped and retaken had lived at least 3 years.

NASHVILLE, TENN., March, 1943.

# THE IVORY-BILLED WOODPECKER

## A REVIEW OF THE REPORT BY JAMES T. TANNER

The Ivory-billed Woodpecker is almost a fabulous bird. Even among the aboriginal indians this hugh woodpecker, with powerful white bill, flaming crest and powerful sweeping flight, was the object of mythical folk-lore and its striking head was sought as an ornament for their chieftans. Catesby, Wilson and Audubon, our best known early ornithologists, sensing the public's interest, made it the subject of extended and interesting eulogies in their works. Never a common bird, few ornithologists have ever learned much of its habits. The haunts of the Ivory-bill were the dense and uninviting swamp lands of the coastal regions of the South and up the flood plain of the Mississippi River little if any above the mouth of the Ohio. Even Audubon, who spent some years in the Bayou Sara country of Louisiana, learned but little of them first hand. B. C. L. Wailes, careful observer and naturalist who lived at Natchez stated, when compiling in 1854 the first list of the birds of Mississippi, that even by that time it had become a rare bird.

The Passenger Pigeon passed out of the picture before the turn of the century and even at that time the Ivory-bill seemed destined to follow. A few were known to reside in Florida and so few were the southern investigators at that time that little was known of their status elsewhere. Interest was considerably revived in 1932 however by the discovery of some of the birds in the great 80,000 acre Singer tract of low primeval hardwood forest in northeast Louisiana. Dr. Arthur A. Allen of Cornell University, enterprising and unexcelled photographer of wild birds, organized an expedition there in 1935 to photograph for posterity the living birds in their forest home and to record in colored motion pictures, with sound, their intimate home life. At subsequent meetings of ornithologists over the country Dr. Allen thrilled his audiences with those fine reproductions. One of the best of these photographs is reproduced as a frontispiece to this issue.

The interest aroused, to a large extent by showings of Dr. Allen's pictures, led the National Audubon Society to cast about for some means of saving the Ivory-bill from final extinction. It was determined that a careful study should be made to determine the present status of the bird and to study its life history, to determine its requirements and its enemies. One of those who had assisted Dr. Allen in his work in 1935 was James T. Tanner, one of his graduate students in ornithology at Cornell and Dr. Tanner being available, qualified and keenly interested, was assigned the investigation.

The excellent results of his work are now in hand, in the shape of "Research Report No. 1, the Ivory-billed Woodpecker,"* representing twenty-one months in the field in the South visiting practically all areas where the birds had once lived, searching for new areas, and making detailed observations of the homelife of the only birds actually encountered, those in northeast Louisiana. His search for new areas was fruitless and definite late reports from previously known areas were unsatisfactory. The lumberman had marched on before him and the big "Logcocks" seem only to survive in primeval forest where trees may live on to their natural age and, dying, provide breeding places under their dead bark for the larvae (grubs) upon which they chiefly feed. This food, the Ivory-bill was found to procure by *scaling* off the dead bark, with its chisel-like bill, and trees were found so extensively scaled that large quantities of the dislodged bark were found about their bases. Dr. Tanner profited by this discovery in searching other localities for the birds, for if dead trees showed no recent scaling it was good evidence that they were not in the area. The Pileated Woodpecker was found to scale off bark only to a minor degree.

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*The Ivory-billed Woodpecker, Oct. 1942, by James T. Tanner; pp 1-XII, plus 1 to III; colored frontispiece plus 20 plates and 22 figures. $2.50. National Audubon Society, 1006 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y.

Some earlier observers had predicted that the last Ivory-bills would be found in the great swamps of bald cypress but apparently this picturesque tree is not a factor in their requirements. The big sweet gums and the Nuttall's oak were the ones from under whose dead bark these woodpecker's secured by far the major part of their food. Logging rights on the entire Singer tract have now been sold and logging has been in progress for five years. Within two or three more years, at the present rate of demand for lumber, its devastation will be complete and with it will probably go this remnant of these stately American birds. According to Dr. Tanner, there are probably only a few other pairs, in Louisiana, in Florida, and possibly still in South Carolina.

Aside from the problem of an adequate food supply, the species seems to be highly unsuccessful in its nestings. Laying only two or three eggs and with but one brood per season, Dr. Tanner found that three nests out of six, followed thru, proved unsuccessful. He records the disappearance of nearly fledged young from the nest and feels that revelation of the marauder might assist in the preservation of the species. The reviewer believes that this, perhaps consistent, marauder of Ivory-bills nests is the mink, a highly carnivorous and pugnacious animal that is common in the swamps of Louisiana. The mink, as the reviewer knows from experience in that region, is a very resourceful animal and one of its accomplishmnts is that of climbing trees when occasion demands. Young woodpeckers in the nest, near the point of leaving, are particularly vociferous with their gutteral mouthings and readily reveal their presence. In view of the above, one could hardly conceive any hesitancy on the part of a passing, hungry mink, upon such notice that breakfast was ready to serve, even tho far overhead. A sheet iron mink-guard about the base of nest trees would remove this menace.

The report reveals that preservation of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker is now dependent upon setting aside, in areas still known to be inhabited by the birds, large enough tracts of timber to afford a proper range and a supply of the type of foor that is needed. To insure the latter it would become necessary to artifically kill enough trees each year if the tract were not sufficiently large. Stands of big timber, even tho remote from transportation, will call for a considerable sum for their purchase. However, interested benefactors might acquire the lands, retain the title if desired and effect a lease to The Audubon Societies for their control and continuance as a sanctuary. The Societies would be glad to have any aid or suggestions that might lead to securing control or title to such sanctuaries. As of 1939, Dr. Tanner believes that twenty-four Ivory-bills may be left in their former homes. There may be a few as yet unfound but that is unlikely. Within just a few years we may hear that the last one has passed on into history to join the Passenger Pigeon and the Carolina Paroquet.—A. F. GANIER.

# TIME AND SEQUENCE OF EARLY MORNING SONG

*By* GEORGE R. MAYFIELD

About eighteen years ago, the writer spent a few June days in the high Smokies near Clingmans Dome. Each morning he was awakened "at the crack of dawn" by the singing of Robins. Soon afterwards, they were joined by the Carolina Juncos with their twirling notes. Then came the drowsy drone of a Red-breasted Nuthatch on some nearby snag. The matin song of the Veery, the Towhee, the Chickadee, the Mountain Solitary Vireo, the Cairn's and other mountain warblers, following generally in that order. This regular succession each morning was so noticeable that I decided to make a study of the time and sequence of bird song at Idlewild Wood, our summer home on Stone's River, about nine miles southeast of Nashville.

The season of the year chosen was around mid-June, and the years 1931, 1933, 1934, 1937 and 1940, are selected as typical for the species that nest in this area. Sunrise on June 15 occurs at 4:29 a.m. and on the 30th at 4:33 a.m., C. S. time. A summary of the time periods during those years shows the following results.

1.—Time periods on clear mornings, 3:20 to 3:32 a.m.—Chuck-wills-widow, Nighthawk, Purple Martin and Kildeer; generally in that order.

II.—Time group for next group of singers, 3:30 to 3:42 a.m.— Wood Pewee, Chat, Crested Flycatcher, Indigo Bunting Meadow Lark, Carolina Wren, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Wood Thrush, Cardinal, Summer Tanager, Towhee, Bob-white, Dove, Crow and Titmouse. The songs or calls of this group follow each other in rapid succession and vary in order from one morning to another.

III.—The species in this group, from 3:40 to 3:55 a.m., can be arranged in the following order.—Chipping Sparrow, Catbird, Field Sparrow, Chickadee, Orchard Oriole, Bluebird, Bewick's Wren, Brown Thrasher, Maryland Yellowthroat, Blue Jay, Kentucky Warbler, Mockingbird, Kingbird, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Goldfinch, Flicker and Hairy Woodpecker. Here again the order may vary from morning to morning.

1V.—This last group begin singing or calling about 3:50 a.m. and may even not start until four. They are the Baltimore Oriole, Chimney Swift, Downy Woodpecker, White-eyed and Red-eyed Vireos, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Sycamore Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Yellow-throated Vireo and the Black-and-white Warbler. These last species are the late risers and either "turn over for another nap" or keep silence until daylight is well advanced. It can be seen quite easily that the vireos and warblers are the Sybarites of the bird world. It might be added by way of excuse that their insect food is late in stirring and hence they are not inspired to sing until feeding time comes.

Some of these species are night singers but this fact does not seem to cause any change in the order mentioned above. Regular night vocalists are the Mockingbird, Chuck-wills-widow, Nighthawk, Kildeer, Chat and Cuckoo. Moonlight nights are generally the times when they burst into song during the hours regularly assigned for sleep. Cloudy mornings throw the period of song from five to fifteen minutes late and the difference seems to show that light has much to do with the inspiration to sing. Dr. J. M. Shaver (1931, *Wilson Bulletin,* v. 43, no. 1) and Mrs. E. B. Walker (1928, unpub. thesis), have reported on this and arrived at the same conclusions. It might be added here that the order indicated probably holds for various parts of the South and the writer would be glad to get the observations of others as a check on his own studies.

NASHVILLE, TENN.

## THE SEASON

CLARKSVILLE, TENN:—The winter has passed without unusual happenings here in the shift of bird populations. Ducks have come to us in small numbers only. Earlier in the season reports from an observer in an airplane indicated a fair number of them on ponds in the northern sections of the county, but hunters have found little sport. Although we have had some sharp cold spells, in the main the weather has been mild. Myrtle Warblers have been fairly common throughout the season. Brown Creepers, Winter Wrens, and Bewick's Wrens were found more easily than usual. Winter Wrens were heard singing during January. Purple Finches occurred with some regularity. Robins stayed on and Mourning Doves have been here in good numbers. We have had our usual allotment of Tree Sparrows and found them not at all scarce. Search for Longspurs proved fruitless for the third consecutive winter and Horned Larks were not plentiful. By the middle of February their flocks had already dispersed; single birds had become the rule and there were occasional mating displays. We feel safe in saying that in general the bird life of the season bore the marks of a mild winter.—On Feb. 7, a Great Horned Owl's nest held two freshly laid eggs. This nest was towering 85 feet off the ground in the very crown of a big yellow poplar and measured five and a half feet in diameter. The depression from the rim to the center was slight and gradual. Clarence Collier, Jr., who climbed to it reported a corn cob and a few shucks in it. We discovered the nest last year and it was then occupied by a pair of Red-tailed Hawks, which had probably built it, while the owls raised young in another nest, several hundred yards away. Now that nest has recently also been adorned with cob and shucks and the hawks were seen near it.—ALFRED CLEBSCH.

THE SEASON AT NASHVILLE:—The winter since Christmas has been comparatively mild but during the first ten days of March there was an exceedingly cold spell, with snow, and temperatures as low as 7 degrees above zero. The first spring migrants that one expects to see were late in arriving. The Brown Thrasher was not noted until March 15, when Dr. G. R. Mayfield recorded one singing on the Vanderbilt campus. He also reported a Black-crowned Night Heron in the North Nashville marsh on March 13, and nearby in open water flushed 3 Blue-winged Teal.——Other early arrivals were 2 Phoebes on Sycamore Creek, Feb. 28, (by Clebsch, Ganier and Jamison) and 4 Vesper Sparrows on March 18 in Warner Parks, by Mrs. Laskey who also reported Chipping Sparrows on March 3.——Dr. Spofford put up several Bluebird boxes near his home in Lealand the latter part of January and almost immediately Bluebirds began to build nests in them. Mrs. Laskey reported that she had visited the Warner Parks Bluebird nestbox project on March 18 and out of 58 boxes examined, there were 10 nearly complete nests and about 20 others partially built.——Among the raptore notes, Dr.

Spofford records elsewhere some local Duck Hawk occurences. On Jan. 24, he observed a pair of Black Vultures in their mating flight. On Jan. 31, he observed a pair of Red-tailed Hawks breaking sticks from trees and flying high in air with them. Also, that on Feb. 7, a male Sparrow Hawk visited a specially designed nesting box he had erected and that during the first half of March a pair of them went in and out of it frequently. Observations on the Red-tailed Hawks in the Radnor Lake hills, by Spofford and Jamison, revealed that there were at least 6 well marked birds in this area as late as Feb. 13. They can be told apart by certain missing feathers in wings and tail. Also, 3 of these hawks were immature. On March 13, the above two observers visited a Red-tail's nest in Warner Park. Although, the nest was a new one, it had all but fallen from the limbs upon which it rested, due to recent strong winds. From an adjacent hillside, 2 eggs could be seen in it, precariously perched on the rim. The following morning the writer climbed the tree and by means of a board, some nails and heavy cord, the nest was righted and secured firmly to the tree. The success of this nest will be reported on later. On the same day we visited another Red-tails nest which had been rebuilt this year after having been vacant for several seasons. On March 14, the female could be seen upon it, from a nearby hillside, apparently incubating.——On Feb. 21, the writer took a trip with Mr. Ganier thru Trimble Bottoms up the Cumberland. Huge flocks of blackbirds were seen all day long, our estimate being 300,000 Bronzed Grackles, 200,000Starlings and many Cowbirds. Low flying flocks of Grackles made a distinct roar and they were musically vociferous as well. Two Rusty Blackbirds were found feeding in a buttonbush swamp. 4 Wilson's Snipe were flushed from a marshy place and nearby we found a small sparrow, believed to have been a LeConte's since it would not flush a second time. A pair of Red-shouldered Hawks were soaring over their old nesting grounds and a pair of Barred Owls were found watching for crayfish over a branch that flowed into the river.——A nice flock of ducks has been on Radnor Lake all thru the winter and consisted of Mallards, Ringnecks, Lesser Scaup, Baldpate, Pintail, Bufflehead and a few Coots.——Mr. Ganier reports that a Barred Owl was observed on Feb. 2nd, in the business district of the city opposite the Union Depot. He reports Starlings and Bronzed Grackles roosting during late Feb. and on into March, in the bare tops of deciduous trees in the old city cemetary in South Nashville. About 4,000 he states went to roost there on March 18 in the tree-tops and that night, at about eleven, there was a thunderstorm accompanied by a violent wind and a near cloudburst during which it rained nearly two inches. The cemetary keeper was interviewed the next morning and stated that only 2 or 3 dead birds had been found under the trees, thus proving how capably these hardy birds can withstand the elements.——CONRAD JAMISON.

MEMPHIS AREA:—Our "birding" this season has been confined largely to our own back yards with only a few field trips, so the lack of records for infrequent or rare visitors does not necessarily mean they were not present this winter.——On Feb. 7, Alice Smith and the writer hiked over a large part of the territory covered by the Raleigh Christmas Census party. Due to extremely high winds, birds were scarce and only 27 species noted. Myrtle Warblers were very common, 60 of them were seen and in almost every instance they were feeding on Poison Ivy berries.——Bert Powell reports a

Woodcock was flushed in Overton Park on March 13. This is the first Spring record for Woodcock in several years. On the same day Bert found a single Vesper Sparrow on the Southwestern Campus. Purple Martins were first reported in Memphis on March 10; they were also seen Mar. 11, 12, and 13, at separate localities. The next migrant was the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, seen by Brother I. Vincent on March 17. He also reports 7 Chipping Sparrows on March 20.——The housing situation for birds in this area is evidently as acute as for *Homo sapiens*. On March 20 at the Christian Brothers College sanctuary a Bluebird house was placed and ready to "let for a song"; ten minutes later a pair of Bluebirds had taken full possession!—MRS. BEN COFFEE, Memphis.

THE SEASON AT KNOXVILLE:—(From H. P. IJAMS, dated March 13th.). It is almost too early for any bird news to have happened here; however the Purple Martins have arrived and this I consider the real opening of Spring activities. Of course the Redwings are here and we have had a great flock of Grackles around for the past three weeks—seems as if the recent cold wave had retarded their migration. Robins are filtering in, but there has been no large flock movement as yet. I feel rather sure that these first birds are our local summer residents. The Cardinals are singing freely and the male is feeding his mate at our feeding station. The Carolina Wrens have just about finished a nest in a can that I stuck up for them in the tool shop. Speaking of Purple Martins, they arrived at 5:15 P.M., March 10th. which, by the way, is the exact date of their average arrival here. For the past three years they have been early getting here, i.e. very late in February. As a boy I spent a good deal of my time on the Tennessee River here and one of my earliest recollections is of how destructive the spring freshets were to the birds. An eight or ten foot tide would wash out an untold number of nests. We still have Spotted Sandpipers but it is probable their early nests are washed out by the floods. We are hoping that the numerous power and storage dams the T.V.A. has erected in East Tennessee will establish a permanent water level and a great deal more shore line. This will make ideal Sandpiper nesting grounds. Water birds are already on the increase and we are constantly getting reports on gulls,terns and various ducks that were formerly scarce. Another year, I hope to make a report on the benefit that these new lakes have been to the birds of this section.

(From Prof HENRY MEYER, dated March 9th.). Gas rationing and extra duties have curtailed field trips but we have gotten much pleasure from our feeding shelf at home. Mrs. Meyer has maintained a record of the birds frequenting our yard and from her daily lists, I find the following have been regularly recorded since Jan. 1st., Flicker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Blue Jay, Crow, Bewick's Wren, Carolina Wren, Mockingbird, Robin, Bluebird, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Starling, English Sparrow, Meadowlark, Cardinal, Towhee, Slate-colored Junco, Field Sparrow and Song Sparrow. Records were also made in our yard of the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Myrtle Warbler and Woodcock. The Woodcock, always a difficult bird to find, was in this instance found dead on our driveway about six feet from the road, on March 3. One wing had been torn off, there was a hole in the neck and the crop was ruptured. A fresh earthworm still dangling from its bill, showed that it was feeding when killed; perhaps by a cat. I preserved the skin, as well as was possible, and found it to be a female. Although its breeding season was due to begin within a few weeks, the ova were not very far along in development, the largest being about ⅛ of an inch in diameter. The native sparrow flock has been large this winter; White-throats ranking first followed by the Field Sparrows. On Feb. 28, about 20 Chipping Sparrows were mixed in with the 150 native sparrows in the yard. Mourning Doves have been present regularly since Feb. 19. Golden-crowned Kinglets have been very common this winter. Bluebirds, contary to the ideas of the general public, are holding their own nicely, judging from their presence in the area near our home. In this area, about 1/10 of a mile in radius, 15 to 25 of the birds can be found regularly. In this connection also, I quote from Mrs. Meyer's notes of Jan. 3rd last; "I saw a flock of about 200 Bluebirds flying over, with their characteristic soft flight. Bluebirds seen to be plentiful this winter."

(From W. M. WALKER, dated March 9th). Cedar Waxwings were relatively abundant here during the late fall and until Dec. 15. Cardinals, Towhees and White-throated Sparrows have been particularly common this winter. Field Sparrows, Juncos, Bluebirds, and Golden-crowned Kinglets have been locally (spottily) abundant but in other localities, scarce. Purple Finches and the woodpeckers (except the Pileated) have been hard to find. Two unusual records for the winter were of Red-breasted Nuthatch, which were found in two localities about Knoxville. The Brown Creeper has been present in unusual numbers from X-mas thru February. Returning Redwings were reported March 3 and 4. Flocks of 200 or more Robins arrived Feb. 18. On Feb. 19, Mr. Ijams reported a flock of more than 4000 Grackles. Mr. William Johnson thinks the large hawks are coming back, or at least holding their own. On a recent trip to the Smokies he saw 3 large ones, probably Red-tails, soaring around in the same up-current of air. On March 7, he reported 2 more large hawks, soaring in the distance, near House Mountain east of Knoxville.

## THE ROUND TABLE

THE CRANES PASS OVER GEORGIA:—In our last issue, H. P. Ijams of Knoxville, recorded that a large flock of Sandhill Cranes on their southward migration had spent from Oct. 22 to Oct. 24 at Seymour, 15 miles east of Knoxville, and that one of them had been shot. In the December issue of *The Oriole*, R. J. Fleetwood reports that on Nov. 1, six days later, he observed a flock of 15 Sandhill Cranes passing southward over a point in Jones County, Georgia. This location is 200 miles south of Knoxville and 75 miles southeast of Atlanta. The birds were low enough for Mr. Fleetwood to identify them without question. It seems likely that this may have been part of the flock reported by Mr. Ijams. And it was a rare piece of luck that an ornithologist happened to be in their path, and watching, as they passed. —EDITOR.

HOODED MERGANSER'S NEST ON REELFOOT: (The following is reprinted from *The Kentucky Warbler*, 1942:54).

"I found a nest of the Hooded Merganser on Reelfoot Lake, Tenn., May 18, 1941, about 500 yards below 'Red' Boyette's landing. It was about 10 feet above the surface of the water and was in a partially hollow tree. The eggs were laid about the middle of April and would have been eaten by a snake if I had not happened along. When I put my hand into the cavity to count the eggs, I felt the snake which later dropped out of a hole lower in the tree. There were 14 eggs in the nest, a little larger than hen's eggs, and it took them nearly five weeks to hatch. The young were active a few hours after hatching although they had no wing feathers. I did not find out how they got from the tree to the water unless the mother bird carried them. As to whether the drake helps with the incubation or rearing of the brood, I do not know. I have never seen him in the viscinity of the nest or of the mother and baby ducklings. The ducklings are sooty black with a few grayish spots and are able to take care of themselves from the start. . . ." —WARREN SIGHTS, Paducah, Ky.

GOLDEN EAGLE NEAR SOUTH PITTSBURG:—On January 11, 1943, one of these eagles was captured by a farmer in the Jump-Off section of the mountains in Marion County, Tennessee. This is approximately 12 miles northwest of South Pittsburg. It was reported that a pair of these eagles did away with several of the farmer's young goats (kids) before they were successful enough to catch one by one of its toes, without injury, in a steel trap. A kid caught and dropped by one of the eagles was used for bait and several traps were set. It was first reported that the kid weighed 30 pounds and when the fact was revealed that these birds cannot lift more than 10 pounds, the estimated weight of the goat was dropped to 20 pounds. It was learned by telephone conversation with sportsmen in South Pittsburg that the eagle had feathered tarsus and was brown; thus its identity was established.

After exhibiting the eagle in South Pittsburg and all schools in that vicinity, the local Conservation Officer released it in good condition on January 14, 1943, on the Orme Mt. road three miles northwest of South Pittsburg. It had been planned to band the bird, but bands were not available. The eagle was not at all vicious. South Pittsburg is on the Tennessee River, about 12 mles from the escarpment of the Mullins Cove section where these birds were formerly found in breeding season, as recorded in the 1933 March issue of THE MIGRANT.—ALBERT J. MARSH, Dept. of Conservation, Nashville, Tenn.

HAWK MENDS A BROKEN WING:—A fine adult male Red-tailed Hawk was turned over to the writer by George R. Mayfield, Jr., on March 8, 1943. It had been captured alongside the highway, east of Camden, Tenn., in the lower branches of a tree, apparently ill or stunned. The bird was docile in manner and examination revealed that it was underfed (weight, 27 oz.) and that he had sustained a broken wing (ulna) within the last two or three weeks. The bone had mended but a recognizable callus remained. Several flight feathers showed unmistakable evidence that the bird had been shot. In a recent article on skeletal injuries in birds (Tiemeier, 1941, *Auk* 58:350-59), it was found that 8% of the Accipitridae and 4% of the Falconidæ, in the University of Kansas museum's skeleton series, had sustained broken bones including those of wing and leg. It would be very interesting to know how such injured birds, which depend entirely on foot and wing for sustenance, survive the recovery period. Probably ground feeding buteos can capture some of their normal food items, such as mice and insects, while confined to the ground by wing enjury, while falcons obviously would be less apt to survive. In the present case cited above, it is quite possible that the bird had been feeding on a dead animal killed by road traffic, and that fear of fresh damage to the injured wing caused it to permit capture. It is more difficult to understand how a broken wing reaches functional recovery without immobilizing the injured part. Certainly a break of either the ulna or radius alone of the two-boned "forearm" should be much less serious than a fracture of the "upper arm" or the "hand".—**Walter R. Spofford**, Nashville, Tenn.

RECENT OCCURENCES OF PEREGRINE FALCONS:—A falcon (Duck Hawk) banded at Racine, Wisc., on Oct. 1, 1941 was shot near Leona, Rutherford Co., Tenn. on Nov. 14, 1942, as reported elsewhere in this issue. Another falcon, banded as a nestling at Reelfoot Lake, April 20, 1942, was killed at Alabam, Madison Co., Arkansas, May 24, 1942. This is one of the young referred to by the writer in a previous issue of THE MIGRANT (1942, 13:29—31), the bird having wandered more than 300 miles westward since it left the nest.

On Christmas day, 1942, Prof. Robt. Hawkins reported a Peregrine flying over the Belle Meade suburbs of Nashville. While the writer was flying his trained Peregrine (see MIGRANT, 13:47), on January 24, 1943, an immature male falcon, a wild bird, came rapidly toward the swinging lure, then zoomed up fully five hundred feet, towered directly overhead for a moment, and then fell off down wind at an astonishing rate, a rapidly diminishing black speck.

Mr. Albert J. Marsh, of the State Dept. of Conservation, adds the following record: "Mr. J. E. Hayes, ardent sportsman of Humbolt, Tenn., reports that while he was fishing at the Maness Swamps (Lake Obion), in the Obion River bottoms north of Greenfield, on Feb. 14, 1943, he observed a Duck Hawk in rapid flight, passing only a few yards overhead. Along the course of it's flight, approximately thirty Blue-bills (Scaup) flushed from the water; however the falcon did not attack. Mr Hayes is quite an outdoor man and his identification can be accepted as authentic."—**Walter R. Spofford**, Nashville, Tenn.

PEREGRINE FALCON NEAR MURFREESBORO:—On November 14, 1942, a farmer named H. G. McPeake who lives in the country near Murfreesboro, shot and killed a Duck Hawk or Peregrine Falcon. He claimed that the bird was after his chickens. Noting that the falcon had an aluminum band on one of its legs he brought it to town a few days later and I sent it to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service to be traced. Shortly afterward, word came from them that the band had been placed on Oct. 1, 1941, by Mr. Ed. Prins, who had captured and banded it near Racine, Wisconsin.—**H. O. Todd**, Murfreesboro, Tenn.

SUMMER RECORDS OF SPOTTED SANDPIPERS: Among our birds the Spotted Sandpiper holds a unique position. The species does not nest here, yet we have a number of records to show that individuals may be met through the entire summer. As the breeding range, begins not far to the north and northeast of us, it is not surprising that spring migration ends late and fall migration begins early. We can assume that breeding birds are absent from the middle of May to the end of July. Field lists show May 13 and May 19 as departure dates and July 27 and July 30 for the return. For the intervening period however, we have the following dates scattered over the past seven years: June 7 (1936), June 2, July 4, 5, 18 (1940), and July 11 (1942). Specimens collected by me bear the dates of June 2, 1940 and July 11, 1942. Both of these were males in good plumage but not in breeding condition.—ALFRED CLEBSCH, Clarksville, Tenn.

BARN OWLS NESTING AT COLUMBIA:—While at my home near Columbia, Tenn., during the recent holidays, I found that the Barn Owls which had nested there in a large hollow red oak, since the summer of 1941, were present at their nest cavity throughout December. The original pair are believed to have moved to their present site from Mr. Dan Gray's colony just a few miles away. Their first two offspring matured about September 7, 1941, and apparently the entire family moved elsewhere for the winter. On March 11, 1942, a pair returned to the oak and on June 18, three almost mature offspring were found in the tree. One of these was killed on July 16, by an auto on the nearby highway. I was absent from home until Dec. 15 last at which time I found two recently dead and almost mature offspring under the tree. One had attempted to get into a hole under the tree and the other was lying near on ploughed ground. Although their stomachs were empty, they were not particularly thin and their plumage was in good condition. Perched on the hollow of the tree was one parent and a nearly grown young. The lone parent had fed only the offspring remaining at the nest and had permitted the two that fell to the ground to die from lack of food and exposure. At night the owls were very noisy, often giving their rasping crys all night. This was an instance of fall nesting and of two broods being raised in one nest the same year. Pellets collected under the nests, since Sept., 1941, contained 9 unidentified mice, 3 white-footed mice, 3 meadow mice, 4 short-tailed shrews, 2 rats, 2 young cotton-tail rabbits, 5 Bronzed Grackles, 2 English Sparrows and 1 Meadowlark. In this list, only the insectivorous Shrews and the Meadowlark are recognized as beneficial. The Grackles were taken in June and July at which time they are injurious to garden corn. Being away from home for months at a time, I missed many pellets. Needless to say these owls are protected at my home.—PVT. HARRY YEATMAN, (Columbia, Tenn.), Co. A, Surg. Sec. Bldg. 261 S. M. D. T., El Paso, Texas.

BARN OWLS AT MURFREESBORO:—A pair of these interesting owls have made their home for the past three years in a big hollow tree at the rear of my home. This is on the outskirts of town, on the Woodbury pike, with open country all about. Thinking there might be a winter brood, Mr Todd climbed to the cavity on Dec. 23 last but there were neither eggs or young. Another pair nested in town, near Tenn. Woman's College last year but later, this tree was ignited by a grass fire and burned up. ——GEORGE DAVIS, Murfreesboro, Tenn.

TWO IVORY-BILLED WOODPECKER RECORDS:—During 1935, the late Mr. J. F. Frazer, of Independence, Mo., advertised to dispose of his collection of bird skins and among them he listed two Ivory-billed Woodpeckers. Replying to the writer's request for the data on the skin tags, Mr. Frazer wrote that the male had been collected May 27, 1903, in Jefferson County, Florida, and that the female had been collected in Madison Parish, Louisiana, by A. L. Williams, on Nov. 26, 1908. I do not know what disposition was made of these specimens.—**Albert F. Ganier**, Nashville, Tenn.

PALM WARBLERS, A CORRECTION:—In our last issue (p. 75) and in our issue of March, 1939 (p. 7 and 9), Palm Warblers found in winter were referred to as Yellow Palm Warblers, the eastern subspecies. A series of six specimens, collected by the writer in the Nashville area, were submitted to Dr. Alex Wetmore of The National Museum and he has referred them all to the Western Palm Warbler (*Dendroica palmarum palmarum*). The dates on which they were taken were Sept. 30, Jan. 7, April 16, 18, 20, and 22. It would seem from the above that the Western Palm is the prevailing form in this region.—**A. F. Ganier**, Nashville, Tenn.

FORMER SWIFT ROOST IN A HOLLOW TREE: The following Tennessee item is reprinted from *The Wilson Bulletin* of March, 1926, p. 36. At the time, "just after the Civil War," there were not nearly so many large chimneys available for Swift roosts as there are today. Records of two other instances of Swift's roosting in hollow trees will be found in THE MIGRANT, 1941:76). "One day in the late summer, just after the Civil War, in the deep woods of Middle Tennessee, I came upon a very large tulip tree, nearly six feet through and at least fifty feet up to the first limb. One of the large limbs had been broken off, leaving a hole about two feet across, which evidently was the starting point of a deep hollow in the tree. It was just before sunset and the Chimney Swifts (*chactura pelagica*) were passing into the hole by the dozens, just as they now do into chimneys when going to roost. I have never noticed another instance of this kind.—**J. A. McLaughlin**, Marshall, Mo.

HOLSTON RIVER BOAT TRIP:—On March 9, I had the orpunity and pleasure of making an investigational boat trip down the Holston River wth Mr. J. F. Tomlison, Supt. of the Buffalo Springs Game Farm, putting in approximately a mile below the Cherokee Dam and taking out about twenty-five miles down stream. This happened to be one of the few pretty and ideal days we have had in the past few months for such a trip, the river being high, fast and clear. It was susprising to find so many ducks on the river, about 75 being seen. A good list of birds was made and included Red-shouldered Hawk 2, Cooper's Hawk 2, Pileated Woodpecker 2, Great Blue Heron 4, and Black-crowned Night Heron 2. Several attempts were made to photograph the ducks taking off, but in vain. A large cave in one of the steep rocky clifts was investigated. This particular cave happened the home of a family of fox, for their tracks and signs were very evident. Also an owl was using the cave for a roost. Owl pellets could not be found; possibly they were destroyed by the fox. In one corner of the cave we found the remains of a rabbit, crow, and meadow lark. It could not be determined whether or not these birds and animals fell prey to the owl or fox.—**Albert J. Marsh**, Dept. of Conservation, Nashville, Tenn.

ANOTHER WINTERING LINCOLN SPARROW AT NASHVILLE:—Because there have been no reports of Lincoln Sparrows (*Melospiza Lincolni*) in winter, the species had been considered a spring-fall transient in Tennessee. At my home banding station, two winter records have occurred, the first on Dec. 22, 1935, and Jack Calhoun collected one from a flock of Field Sparrows on Nov. 30, 1934. (Laskey 1936 MIGRANT 7:4). My second record occurred during the inclement weather of late January when ice and snow covered the ground for a week. January 30, 1943, the individual caught was in the soiled plumage acquired by birds wintering in the environs of sooty Nashville. Since August, 1931, I have banded 47 Lincoln Sparrows; 31 in April and May; 2 in March; 1 on Feb. 22, 1939, repeating until March 21. For autumn there are 11 records, all banded in October. There are now records for this species for each month from October through May, at Nashville.—AMELIA R. LASKEY, Nashville, Tenn.

A RECORD OF THE SNOW BUNTING IN ALABAMA:—The winter of 1939-40 will long be remembered as one of the coldest ever known in the South. At Birmingham, January of that winter was the coldest month on record, with a nine-inch snowfall on the 22nd and 23rd and a monthly mean temperature of 30.6° F. The lowest official temperature was1° F., but the municipal airport reported -10° F. on the morning of the 27th. Preceding the heavy snow, a light one had fallen on the night of the 18th, and the official temperature the next morning was 2° F. Realizing that some northern species might well be present under such conditions, I took a field trip near East Lake (Birmingham) on the afternoon of January 24. It was not long before I was examining a Prairie Horned Lark (*Otocoris alpestris praticola*) at close range. Another was seen later in the afternoon, these constituting my second record of the species at Birmingham. As I approached the first Horned Lark, however, another bird flushed well in advance of me and flew toward the late afternoon sun. Under such conditions it was not possible to make out its markings, but the call notes were heard clearly and recognized at once as something utterly strange to me. It was not difficult to imitate nor to remember them—a sort of rattling "ti-ti-tick," followed by a more musical, down-slurred "whew." The former note was strongly reminiscent of the alarm note of a Cowbird. The process of elimination led me to suspect either a Snow Bunting or a Lapland Longspur, two species with which I could claim no field experience. A thorough study of the descriptions of the call notes of these and other species in two of my field guides did not help me form any conclussions at the time regarding the identity of this bird, but I knew that it would be easily possible to recognize these call notes the next time I heard them. My opportunity came about two years later, when I heard and saw Snow Buntings on several occasions around Ithaca, New York, in February, 1942. When I heard their call notes I recognized them immediately as being absolutely identical with those I had heard at Birmingham. Apparently there has been no previous published record of Snow Buntings in Alabama, Mississippi, or Tennessee, but they may well be expected again under such severe weather conditions as those prevailing at the time of this observation. —HENRY STEVENSON, Cornell, Univ., Ithaca, N. Y.

GUESTS AT A FEEDING SHELF:—The unprecedented March cold wave, which ushered in the first ten days of the month, brought us a real treat in the shape of hungry feathered visitors to our feeding board. This board is just outside of a window, about 15 feet above the ground, and is kept well supplied with grain, crumbs, suet, etc. The Carolina Wrens look things over and stuff themselves by the hour. The Titmice and Chickadees come together and work over the assorted menu. Then the Downy Woodpecker goes to work on the suet and what a time he does have. After filling up, he takes pieces over to the white oak nearby, and tries to fill up the various cracks in the bark. Yesterday and this morning a Myrtle Warbler has been working around and an occasional English Sparrow comes up for a special bit to eat. These sparrows know that they are not wanted and will move off at the slightest movement, while the Downy and the Wrens will look up and go on eating if we do not come too close. This morning the Downy forced the sparrows to leave and would not let them come back. For several days we have had a real close view of a Hairy Woodpecker. He showed up on the 1st of March and has been at the board every day since. Several times he has come when the Downy was on the board and you could get a real comparison of the size of the two birds. Last Saturday the Cardinals gathered and have been around since. I counted at least 16 on the back walk at one time. Numbers of White-throated Sparrows were there also. Several Juncos were in the leaves and finally one flew up to the board and ate some of the crumbs. Several Doves have been feeding with the chickens but have not come up onto the board. The Towhees are moving lots of leaves and are in find plumage, the males being especially handsome with heads of satiny black and dark red eyes.—**WILLIAM JOHNSON**, Knoxville, Tenn.

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## IN THE ARMED SERVICE

Many more of our members have donned their uniforms. Of the Memphis group, Cpl. Ben B. Coffey, our former Editor, has compiled the following list: Ensign Fred T. Carney, U. S. Coast Guard, U. S. S. PC590, Care Postmaster, San Francisco;—Lieut. Harold Elphingstone, 6th Ferrying Group, Long Beach Army Air Base, Long Beach, Calif.—Lt. John H. Embury, Jr., HQ. 36th Engrs., APO 668, Care Postmaster, New York City.—S/Sgt. Chas. E. McPherson, 472nd Bomb Sqd., Greenville Army Air Base, Greenville, S. Car.—B. Franklin McClamey, AAFTD,110 Atkinson, M. I. T., Cambridge, Mass.—A/C John Pond., 305 Bldg. 1106, Bronson Field, Pensacola, Fla.——Cand. Bob G. Shaffer, 24th Bty. AAS, O. C. D., Camp Davis, N. Car.——Pvt. James M. Vardaman, HQ Btry. 328th F. A. Bn., APO 85, Camp Shelby, Miss.—Pvt. H. E. Wallace, Barracks 2005, 84th Cav. Rcn. Trp., Camp Howze, Texas.—Lt. (j. g.) Wendell Whittemore, M. C., Care Main Dispensary, Naval Air Sta., Jacksonville, Fla.—and, Cpl. Coffeys address is O. C. S. Class 57, Ft. Sills, Okla.—Lieut. H. C. Monk of Nashville, Continues at Ft. Belvoir, Va., awaiting transfer,—Harry C. Yeatman of Columbia, has been transferred to El Paso, Texas.—Dan Grey Jr., is enrolled but we do not have his address.—Lieut. L. D. Thompson of Paris is at Camp Roberts, Calif.—James B. Young of Louisville is with the F. B. I. at San Diego, Calif.—Lieut. Burt C. Monroe, also of Louisville, has been transferred to the Army Air Base at Dyersburg, Tenn.—Pvt. Francis S. Lawrence of Nashville, is stationed at Sioux Falls, S. Dak.—Cpl. V. P. McLaughlin, Jr. has been transferred from Clarksville to Grinnell, Iowa.

## SUPPLEMENTAL MEMBERSHIP LIST

Being those who have become members of the T. O. S. since publication of the last list, in June 1941 issue of THE MIGRANT.

Dr. Katherine Anderson........Vanderbilt Hospital, Nashville, Tenn.
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Sam Clark, Jr........Glen Leven Drive, ”
D. J. Cummings........3200 Long Boulevard, ”
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# THE MIGRANT

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*The simple truth about birds is interesting enough,*
*it is not necessary to go beyond it."*

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## EDITOR'S CHAT

Winter as usual has long overstayed its welcome and, tarrying late, has caused March to go down as one of the coldest on record. This recent inclement weather has made the symposium upon winter roosting, printed in this issue, most timely indeed. Those who have wondered how birds spend the cold blustery nights will find some of their answers in this issue.——One of the most interesting objectives of bird-banding is to find out how long birds live. We are fortunate to have an article bearing upon this question from Mrs. Laskey who, by the volume and consistency of her bird-banding work and by the logical interpretations of her findings, has proved herself a real ornithologist. In this issue she has skimmed the cream from her records and given us the best of her findings on longevity.——Dr. Mayfield literally sleeps in the woods at his camp in summer so has taken advantage of the opportunity to ascertain for his fellow observers just when the birds really begin the day. ——The report upon the Ivory-billed Woodpecker is the work of our fellow member James T. Tanner who, until his recent entry into naval service, was president of our Johnson City chapter. We vote Dr. Tanner the honor of being the ornithologist who has learned more about this rare bird than anyone who has gone before him.——For the many worth while notes in The Season and in The Round Table, your editor expresses appreciation and a wish for 20 good pages of copy to fill the June issue.

MEETING AND ACTIVITIES:—The Knoxville Chapter, T. O. S., has issued a mimeographed program for the entire year. Spring activities include evenings meetings on March 3, April 7, May 5 and June 2. Field trips are scheduled for March 21, April 11, 18 and 25, May 2, 9, 16 and June 2. The May 2 date is that of the annual Spring Bird Count at the Island Home Sanctuary.——The Nashville Chapter meets the 2nd and 4th Monday evenings of each month in the S-R Bldg. of Peabody College. Groups go afield each week-end and a Spring Field Day will be held May 16 or 23.——The Memphis Chapter holds evening meetiings on the 3rd Monday of each month and expect to hold their Spring Field Day in May.——Chapter secretaries, given in last issue, may be contacted for details

ERRATA:—In the midwinter census tabulation in our last issue, page 62, the Great Smokies list was credited with 135 Tree Sparrows but this number should have been for Field Sparrows. The Memphis list should have included 103 Flickers. Readers will please correct their copies. In the heading on the editorial page, your editor's name was incorrectly given as Alfred.

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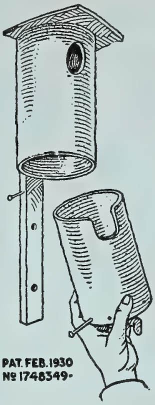

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# THE MIGRANT

A QUARTERLY JOURNAL
DEVOTED TO TENNESSEE BIRDS

Published by
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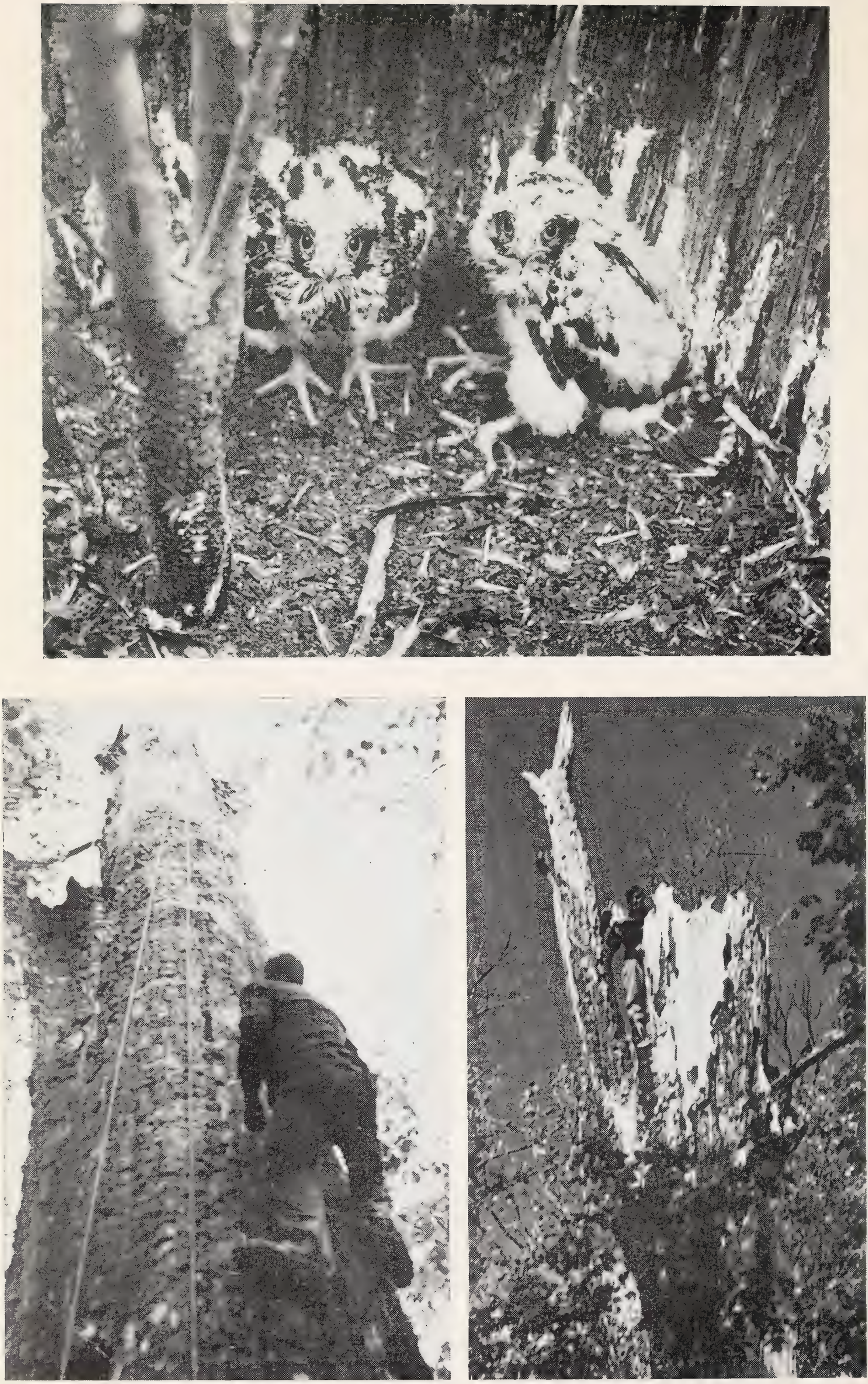

Top—Young Peregrines in their tree-nest eyrie, Reelfoot Lake, Tenn.
Left—The nest tree, being climbed with ropes and spikes.
Right—Spofford at the nest cavity, holding up one of the young.

# THE MIGRANT

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## PEREGRINES IN A WEST TENNESSEE SWAMP

*By* WALTER R. SPOFFORD

That Peregrines Falcons* are regular visitors to Reelfoot Lake in the fall and winter months is well known to sportsmen who have frequently admired their meteoric stoops at rapidly flying waterfowl. Less well known is the fact that at least one pair of these rare but spectacular falcons nest in the dense swamp forests surrounding the lake. First reported by Mr. Ganier in 1932, an eyrie was photographed by the writer just ten years later (MIGRANT, XIII, p. 30 and photos, this issue). Hoping to revisit the eyrie, Sam Clark, Jr., Conrad Jamison and the writer, spent April 23rd-25th wading through the swamps around the lake.

On the afternoon of the first day the tiercel appeared over the fields and alongside of the car as we drove along a highway near the lake. An hour or two later we approached a tall broken stub, the eyrie of the previous year, which we fully expected to find reoccupied. To our surprised disappointment, there were no signs of falcons, and only a few old Barred Owl pellets were in the nest. An hour's search and several hours of observation from various vantage points were equally fruitless, and that evening we decided to spend the next forenoon at "Cranetown" before resuming the quest.

It was late the next afternoon and after many hours of tramping and wading, that finally our efforts met some success. Though much of the swamp was well wooded, it was now apparent that relatively few places held the large dead broken-off stubs which we believed essential for nesting sites. Returning to the vicinity of last year's eyrie, we were greeted with the harsh scolding *Kack! Kack! Kack! Kack*! of the old falcon and immediately saw her take off from a tremendously tall live cypress. Circling close overhead, she was soon joined by her equally noisy tiercel. The eyrie was obviously close at hand, and we closely scanned the few available trees. One dead stub was a smaller duplicate of last year's nest, and another was an eighty foot trunk topped by a horizontal snag, and half way up, burned nearly through, an obviously inaccessable site. We hoped that this was not the nest! The giant live cypress, and a closeby only lesser giant seemed to interest the falcons. We left the swamp, planning to return more quietly for observation.

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*In preparing this paper, Dr. Spofford has used the terms of the Falconer, as follows: Peregrine, the European name for the Duck Hawk (**Falco peregrinus anatum**); Tiercel, the adult male of the species; Falcon, the adult female; and Eyess (Eyas), the young. —**Editor.**

**(Halftones loaned by courtesy of THE AMERICAN FALCONER)**

At six-thirty p. m., we again made our way ever so carefully into the swamp. Soon we heard the falcon calling, several short wails, a long pause, and then wails again. The falcon was obviously awaiting the return of the tiercel with food, nor had she long to wait. Suddenly, *Kleechip! Klee-chip!* announced the tiercel in and almost immediately we heard the food calls of the eyesses. We were not close enough to see where the calls came from, but the direction was that of the giant live cypress, not the 'impossible' dead snag. All was now quiet, and dusk was at hand. Transient Whip-poor-wills called all around us and a single Chuck-wills-widow could be heard; Barred Owls barked and whooped, and the rush of wings announced an occasional low flying "V" of Cormorants. Slowly, ever so quietly I waded close under the big trees. The dead snag was now a silhouette, and a large falcon perched there, feeding on what glasses revealed to be a duck. Suddenly a smaller bird, a tiercel, walked out on a limb a few feet below. Were these two eyesses, and already full summed? No, for the tiercel suddenly flew into a dense clump of cypress and was seen no more. The falcon fed for a few minutes, and then flew to a dead limb one hundred feet directly overhead. Cautiously I moved my glasses up, but her sharp eyes pierced the black gloom of the swamp; she cackled loudly, then flew into the dense cypress tops where the tiercel was last seen. Now it was black night and only the indescribable bedlam of the owls could be heard.

We were up at four the next morning, and it was perceptably graying in the East as we carefully worked in toward the eyrie. Several Chuck-wills were calling and frequently the ringing whoop of an owl was heard. Clear singing of Olive-backed and Wood Thrushes were the only other morning sounds. At about five-thirty the falcon short-wailed several times, paused a few minutes, wailed and again paused. As it grew light she could be seen perched in the great live cypress. Suddenly the tiercel also wailed, paused, and wailed again from his perch in the other live cypress. Quickly he flew directly to the falcon and mating took place, the tiercel holding his wings high with some fluttering, and several low wailing calls were heard. The tiercel now flew to the dead snag, preened for five minutes, and then flew off, quickly followed by the falcon, as if to speed him on his way; and then she was back, wailing as before. In a remarkably short time *Klee-chip!* announced the tiercel's return; coming in low, with an upward flip he tossed a Grackle over the cypress and the falcon dove to catch it before it had fallen but a few yards. Returning to her perch, she deplumed it for a moment, and then flew directly to the giant live cypress, to a short dead stub set steeply into the main trunk some two-thirds up the tree, full ninety feet above water level. Into a large hole in the base of the limb the falcon disappeared and immediately the food calls of eyesses were heard.

The sun was now up, and shone brilliantly on her faintly orange-tinted breast heavily marked with black, as she walked out onto a nearby limb, teetered a moment to catch her balance, and then re-entered the eyrie. Now the tip of her tail and wings could be seen as she fed her young. Soon she climbed up the edge of the nest opening, walked out onto a limb, and flew to the perch in the next tree where she recommenced her waiting wails.

After two hours to allow for our own and the falcons' breakfast, we again approached the eyrie. From a distance of nearly two hundred yards we could easily see at least one large whiteish eyess standing in the nest entrance enjoying the morning sun. Five laborious hours later, first Sam Clark and then I looked in on four three-weeks old eyesses. Meanwhile both parents had been much concerned circling close overhead with continuous *Kack! Kack! Kack!* notes and frequent short stoops directly at the climbers.

The floor of the eyrie was less than two feet across, and well open to the east. Many feathers and wings of their prey formed a covering for the dead wood floor. Blue-winged Teal were abundant on all nearby water, especially the flooded cornfields, and these formed the bulk of their food, but traces of Redwing and Grackle were also present. This is the only eyrie in the more than fifty that the writer has visited in the Appalachian system, where ducks form any appreciable part of the 'Duck Hawk's' diet, domestic pigeons having elsewhere constituted by far the staple item. Later, when the ducks have gone north, the Green Heron is a frequent capture, at this swamp eyrie.

Two of the eyesses were very large, obviously falcons, while the smaller pair were tiercels. The feet of the largest falcon were conspicuously large, seemingly larger than those of my trained Gyrfalcon. All four had yellow feet instead of the traditional blue of the young. The tiercel's were lemon yellow and the falcon's chrome. The cere and lores were blue. Last year the feet of the two eyesses were the usual blue.

Since we had interrupted the hunting of the parents, we brought the young a pigeon which we fed them. After banding and photographing the young we left and an hour later were on our way back to Nashville.

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE, June, 1943.

## THE CONNECTICUT WARBLER, A SPRING VISITANT

*By* B. H. ABERNATHY

Although the Connecticut Warbler (*Oporornis agilis*), judged from records, appears to be very rare in this section, its presence in Tennesese during spring migration season is probably more general than has been supposed. Its fall migration route lies east of the Alleghanies.

Four years ago, about the tenth of May, I heard in the dense undergrowth west of my lawn a very unfamiliar song. Judging the song to be that of some unusual warbler, I spent a half hour diligently trying to get a glimpse of the bird, but he always eluded me. The song is not unlike that of the Kentucky Warbler in quality as well as like that of the Northern (Maryland) Yellowthroat in enunciation except for the fact that it is timed a bit more slowly and has a sort of stitch or broken note. Instead of the "witchety," he says "wit-che-ty" each time, as though he were yet struggling carefully and slowly to master the notes. Chapman, quoting Farwell, also likens the song to that of the Northern Yellowthroat but more vigorous and resonant.

For three or four mornings he kept leading me this chase. Then I called Dr. G. R. Mayfield to come out and help me find and identify the bird. The next morning early he came, and we finally got our glasses on the bird. By the white ring around the eye, which we plainly saw and which was made conspicuous by the slate-blue color of the head, we knew it to be the Connecticut, though we had no record of this bird's presence near Nashville for eight years.

Each year since that date about the tenth of May I have identified at least one bird about my yard. This year on May 12th, I saw one at the accustomed spot. Feeling sure that I recognized the bird, I listened and watched for two more mornings before I heard his note. Then on Sunday, May 16, the day of our T. O. S. Field Day, I skirted the borders of my six acre lawn and canvassed the extensive, thinly timbered thickets across the road. In an area of twenty acres or less I definitely located four males, singing, one of which I watched at a distance of not more than fifteen feet. When the bird count had been compiled that afternoon, members were especially interested in my report of these birds and late the following Wednesday afternoon, the 19th, Dr. Mayfield and Mr. Ganier came out to check on them.

The hour being late, no Connecticut song note could be heard but Dr. Mayfield and I were finally rewarded by seeing the bird in the thicket at the edge of my lawn rise in a shrub to look us over, at twenty feet distant, then disappear again into the cool shade below. Meanwhile, Mr. Ganier had gone to the extensive buckbush-covered slope to attempt to flush one of the three previously seen there. These birds, according to northern observers, are reputed to rise from the bush when disturbed, seek the lower limb of a tree and await there quietly for further developments. By watching carefully ahead, he finally flushed one of the birds, at twenty feet, and the procedure above described was duplicated. Not having had opportunity previously to secure a bird of this species, he collected the specimen which was a perfect male, and has added it to his collection.

The group of three birds in the large thicket were in the vicinity of a wet-weather brook. Since their summer haunts are about marshy places, the brook may have caused them to tarry there. Last year, Mrs. Laskey reported one in Warner Park on May 19. (MIGRANT, 1942; 73). I would suggest that members of the T. O. S. be on the alert next spring, during the first three weeks in May, for their unusual call. The bird is shy and stays down near the ground under the dense foliage but his song is distinctively a give-way, once you have heard it.

NASHVILLE, TENN., June, 1943.

## SOME OBSERVATIONS ON THE GRASSHOPPER SPARROW

*By* ALFRED CLEBSCH

The name of the Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum pratensis*) is well chosen. Not only is the song of this sparrow so good a duplicate of the grasshopper's fine buzzing that to tell them apart one has to learn the little accent the bird starts with, but also the short flight to duck back into the grass reminds of the insect and the habitats of the two are usually the same.

We had spent a dark and windy day in woods along river and creek, and the morning bringing more threat of clouds and rain decided to try open up-land for better luck and visibility. So on May 31 the three of us, Mr. Ganier and my son Eddy, besides me, drove a few miles northeast of

Clarksville and stopped at the abandoned Gracey Branch right-of-way of the L&N railroad.

There we found a field just right for Grasshopper Sparrows. It was an old lespedeza field with grass and weeds, small bushes and dewberry vines here and there so as to furnish all the needs of the birds' nesting territory. It is usual to find a number of pairs established in a suitable location, some expanse with grass or clovers not too thick but high and dense enough to hide their movements on the ground, some small growth of sturdier kind to give a nest a bit of shelter or furnish an occasional perch for the male to render his song. Weeds and bushes, old hay stacks, fence rows and even transmission wires serve the latter purpose.

The Grasshopper Sparrow is a "flathead"like the Meadowlark and the Dickcissel, who live and feed where he does and in similar fashion. His actions are much like those of his northern cousin, the Savannah Sparrow. With large and sturdy feet and legs he runs through the grass rather than to take flight. A slow approach to a spot where a bird has been seen to alight brings poor results and better chance comes by hastening there. Size and plumage add to the resemblance, the chief difference being the breast plumage which is white with brown streaks in the Savannah and plain buff or dingy in the Grasshopper Sparrow. Both have the crown divided by a light strip, mottled back, and yellow at the bend of the wings. These are short and well rounded, a characteristic found in other birds that use a dense habitat. The tail of pointed feathers is short in proportion to the body. Of the two sparrows, the Grasshopper Sparrow is the darker and the smaller.

In a 30 acre field bordered by hedge rows we found a dozen or more of our birds. Other suitable fields were adjoining and certainly visited by them. Here were also Indigo Buntings, Cardinals, Field Sparrows and a Bachman's Sparrow. A Meadowlark circled us in the air in evident concern for a well hidden nest. In a group of trees near the road we found Orchard Orioles, Red-eyed and Warbling Vireos, Bluebirds and Yellow Warblers.

The Grasshopper Sparrow's song, so high pitched that it is without musical quality, is audible from a good distance and we were lured into the adjacent fields before we found three nests in an area of not more than 5 acres of the field first entered. These nests were on easy slopes draining toward the lowest part of the field and all were carefully tucked away beneath the grass. During the morning we found one with 3 eggs which had been incubated for about a week. Their color is white and they are speckled with brownish spots especially toward the larger end.

The nest is usually made in a teacup-like depression in the ground, scratched and hollowed out by the birds to a depth of about an inch. This one was of that type and stood in the scant shelter of a coarse bunch of grass. Its rim was nearly flush with the ground. Surely most of the nests are unharmed by the mowing blade that comes to cut weeds and sassafras shoots to give the lespedeza a freer growth and is set high enough to go above its green carpet.

About the middle of the morning a hard shower soaked us and when we came back after lunch we brought a 75 foot drag rope to flush incubating birds. Search for the nests involve covering a great deal of ground afoot for the birds are close sitters and do not flush from their eggs until almost trod upon. While using the rope we found the other two nests, the first of which held a set of five fresh eggs. It was placed under a little sawbriar vine and its construction was not very elaborate. When the last nest was betrayed by the bird flushing close ahead of the rope, the peepings of young birds made it easy to find. But somehow it had been upset and torn apart; maybe it was done by one of us in our hasty retreat in the rain. Two of the little creatures had already strayed from the bare dirt cup in which the rest of the quintuplet nestled. To restore matters we rearranged the best we could the little pile of dead lespedeza stems which had surrounded it, retrieved the stragglers and soon had the satisfaction of seeing the alarmed parents come back to the scene.

The study of this species was continued whenever there was chance during the following weeks. One June 10, Eddy and I visited a farm on the east side of lower West Fork Creek that was known to us as good territory for Grasshopper Sparrows. Here they were associated with Dickcissels in a lush field of red clover and timothy, but we had to refrain from trampling down the crop. However, in a neighboring field of timothy and lespedeza interspersed with weedy patches, we found a nest with 4 fresh eggs. Contrary to the rule this nest was set flat on the ground, its back laid against a small bank of dirt. There was a little clearing among the weeds and the top of the structure rested against a leaning green weed and some dead stalks. It was flanked by a raked-up, loose batch of dead grass on one side and some standing stubble on the other. The structure the birds had set in there was a rough globe of 4 inch diameter with a 1½ inche round opening on the side toward the leaning weed. It had a thick and firmly woven sill from which the sides and the arched roof rose. A little bundle of cut grass was worked into the side of the nest. Stems and blades of the same type of grass were used throughout, the stems selected becoming finer toward the inside. A little mattress of the hairlike fibres of red sprangle-top grass made the final bedding. The fact that the nests found before consisted chiefly of dead lespedeza stems which were also available here, shows that the birds use what comes to hand.

Another field on this farm had recently been cut over and raked. Several Grasshopper Sparrows were in the lespedeza that was coming up, but they were quite nervous and shy. In contrast to this were our birds in a field on highway No. 76, two and a half miles from town, which we visited two days later. Here they allowed close approach and a number of times we were startled by one getting up right at our feet. On June 17 still another field on the West Fork Creek farm was visited. Young birds were out of the nest on that date and well able to fly. Ranging in a pure stand of timothy, they were still being fed by the adults who called to them with a cricket-like chirp.

Here we had the opportunity to hear an addition to the repertoire of these birds. A male followed up his fine steady buzz by a warbling twitter that took as much time again as the buzzing. It resembled somewhat the chatter of the Meadowlark, but, while of course weaker, it was also more varied and could justly be called musical.

Mr. Ganier writes me that near Nashville he has found nests with fresh eggs in the early part of July, but we are not prepared to say if that means they raise a second brood, or whether these nests represent a second attempt after the first one had come to grief. As the birds are late nesters to begin with, —in spite of their fairly early arrival in the spring,—the latter assumption would seem more likely to be correct. My notes for their occurrence here show the dates of April 7 for arrival and September 4 for departure. (For Nashville arrival dates see MIGRANT 1936, page 7.)

The statements Dr. Frank Chapman makes about the Grasshopper Sparrow in his handbook are very fitting. This is a bird that may easily be overlooked, but when searched for and found will furnish material for interesting observations close to home

CLARKSVILLE, TENN., June, 1943.

EDITOR'S NOTE:—A series of male Grasshopper Sparrows, collected at Clarksville and at Nashville during the breeding season, by Messrs. Clebsch and Ganier, have been examined by Dr. Alex Wetmore of the U. S. National Museum and were determined by him to be the eastern race, as named in the first paragraph of the above article. —A. F. G.

# SOME OBSERVATIONS ON THE NESTING AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROTHONOTARY WARBLER, PROTONOTARIA CITREA

By HENRY MEYER AND RUTH REED NEVIUS*

The Prothonotary Warbler, *Protonotaria citrea,* a species commonly considered rare in the Knoxville area, has been nesting since 1936 with increasing frequency in nesting boxes at the Island Home Bird Sanctuary which is located on the Tennessee river just southeast of Knoxville, Tennessee. The accessibility of these nests suggested that a nesting study of this warbler might be successfully undertaken in this area.

During the spring and summer of 1939 four nests built by two pairs of birds were available for study. In addition, an unmated male was present in the area. Approximately 175 hours of field study were devoted to gathering information concerning the habits of these birds and the twelve young which were reared by them between April 14 and July 10, 1939.

## SPRING ARRIVAL AND TERRITORIAL RELATIONSHIPS

Most birds have been found to isolate themselves during the breeding season on relatively small areas from which other individuals of the same species are excluded. Having established himself on such an area the male sings; song enabling a passing female to recognize the presence of an unmated male, and also serving as a warning to other males that the area is already occupied. The Prothonotary Warbler appeared to follow this general plan.

Three males established territories. Male 1 arrived April 14. By the next day he was singing on an area 550 feet long and for the most part not more than 200 feet wide. It included three kinds of habitats: (a) a grassy terrace on which several nesting boxes were located, (b) river banks densely covered with small trees and bushes, and (c) a small open orchard which constituted the connecting link between the terrace and the river bank.

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Male II arrived on April 18 and occupied a narrow territory along a brook confined by wooded slopes and which contained two lotus ponds. The area was about 400 feet long and 100 feet wide. A nesting box was on a stake above one of the ponds.

Male III appeared May 5 in the terraced area being claimed by Male I. During the day, the 2 males sang energetically and flew often only a few inches apart. Male I maintained his territory and Male III disappeared. Later, Male III (or another male) occupied a neighboring lawn and began nest building. Observers watched a pair at this nest, which was left incomplete because of the disappearance of the female. For over forty days this male sang intermittently near the nest, being last heard July 1st.

During the period of establishing territories the males visited several nesting boxes, looking into them, entering them, and singing from the tops of them.

Male I carried nesting material into a few of these boxes. By the afternoon of the second day after arrival he had, however, concentrated his attentions upon one box. On the third day he had almost completely filled this box with mosses and some bark, rootlets, and dead leaves. He did not add a compact lining or cup although he was still carrying material to this box on the fourth day.

The second male investigated at least five boxes and carried moss into at least one of them. He did not, however, build a nest nearly as complete as that of Male I.

The mate of Male I arrived April 20. On this day this pair communicated by their full call-note. Twice the male was seen pursuing the female rapidly in a small semi-circle and pausing, called a soft, full note which was later heard only when the two sexes were together.

The mate of Male II came April 22, four days after the latter's arrival.

Combat with other species found within the territories of these birds was observed. Combat with the Bluebird was most frequent but one or more indications of opposition was noticed with the Flicker, Downy Woodpecker, Acadian Flycatcher, Tufted Titmouse, Robin, and Cardinal.

## NESTING SITES AND NEST BUILDING

Roberts (1899) observed the Prothonotary Warblers are "found only in bottom land and apparently do not pass up the wooded deep ravines of tributary rivers." Pearson ('36) stated that the usual site of the nest is two to fifteen feet high in a stump over water. However, the literature is replete with examples of curious departures from the usual nesting site. For example, Ijams ('37) reported that individuals departed from the usual habitat, occupying nest boxes which were "not closer than five hundred feet from the Tennessee River."

The nesting boxes and sites examined by the males are not necessarily the ones used by the females. The nests built by the males are rather to be regarded as "dummy nests." The nests used for egg laying and rearing of the young were built by the female unaided, although the males occasionally sang from a box top or entered a box ahead of a female. Barnes (1899) and Chapman ('07) reported that the male carried some material which was left outside the nest. Walkinshaw ('38) reported a like behavior of the male.

The materials used for nest construction varied according to availability. Table I shows the location and materials of the nests observed in this study.

TABLE I. NESTING LOCATIONS AND MATERIALS

| | Pair I, Nest A | Pair I, Nest B. | Pair II, Nest A. | Pair II, Nest B |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Location | orchard, over plowed ground | over lily pool, by residence | over lotus pond in wooded ravine | over lily pool by building |
| Material lining | grass stems | hackberry leaves, rootlets, grass, some moss, hairs, bark | grass, moss | horsehair, pine needles |
| Bulk | moss | hackberry leaves | Titmouse nest covered by moss, some bark | thin moss layer, cedar bark, moss |

A variable amount of time was required for nest construction. The first nest (A) of Pair I was begun April 20 and required seven days for building. A three-day period elapsed before laying of the first egg. The second nest (B) of Pair I was begun May 7, following failure of the first nest. Ten days were spent in construction, followed by a five-day period before laying of the first egg. The first nest (A) of Pair II was begun April 22, and required six days for building. On the third day after nest completion the first egg was laid. The second nest (B) of Pair II was begun June 8. Construction required four days and the third day thereafter the first egg was laid.

## EGG - LAYING AND INCUBATION

The nests were visited about 4:30 in the morning (Central Standard Time) in order to determine the time of egg laying. Table II. summarizes the time of laying of the 3rd and 4th eggs in Nest A, and the first three eggs of Nest B of Pair I.

TABLE II. EGG-LAYING TIME OF PAIR I.

| | Nest A | | Nest B | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Date | May 2 | May 3 | May 23 | May 24 | May 25 |
| Female enters nest | 5:00 | 5:15 | 4:44 | 4:47 | 4:45 |
| Female leaves nest | 5:28 | 5:48 | 5:20 | 5:20 | 5:15 |
| Minutes on nest | 28 | 33 | 36 | 33 | 30 |

Two factors may be related to the earlier hour of laying in Nest B. Daylight was coming earlier as the season advanced, and the weather was warm as contrasted to a cold period during the laying of the first set of eggs. It may be of further interest to state that the time of sunrise on May 2 was at 5:02 and on May 23 was at 4:42.

Of eighteen eggs the average length was 18.39mm. and the average width 15mm. Their average fresh weight was 2.08 grams. The total weight of fourteen eggs freshly laid was 28.75 grams; their total weight at hatching was 24.75 grams. The total loss of weight during incubation was 4.0 grams or 13.91 per cent loss.

Incubation was entirely by the female, began the night before the last egg was laid, and required thirteen and one half days. Of the eighteen eggs laid, **twelve** (66.66 percent) hatched, all the young birds living to leave the nest.

The male of each pair frequently fed his mate, often singing before coming to the nest. During feeding a soft short note was uttered. The female was usually fed while on the nest, though she occasionally left the nest just after being fed. Walkinshaw ('38) observed a female usually leaving the nest to be fed. In the morning of the eighth day of incubation one female in a 90-minute period was on the nest 73 minutes (81 per cent). At noon of the eleventh day this female during another 90-minute period was on the nest 23 minutes (25 per cent). Late afternoon of the second day during a 45-minute period she was on the nest 31 minutes (69 percent).

## MORPHOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT

The young on the day of hatching had orange-red skin. The mouth lining was red. Down was distributed over the frontal and occipital areas of the capital tract, spinal tract, femoral, alar, and humeral tracts. Feather sheaths of the alar tracts penetrated the skin the first day after hatching. On the second day after hatching the eye-slits began to open. Feather sheaths of the humeral, femoral, and crural tracts emerged on the third day; those of the dorsal and ventral tracts emerged on the fourth day, and those of the capital and caudal tracts on the fifth day. On the fifth day sheaths began breaking. The egg tooth in ten young persisted throughout the nestling stage. On the ninth day in two young the egg tooth scaled off. Throughout the nestling stage the birds were weighed daily. Several measurements were made in accordance with those described by Baldwin, Oberholser and Worley ('31). Table III records the weights and some of the measurements made.

TABLE III. WEIGHTS AND MEASUREMENTS OF DEVELOPING NESTLINGS

| Age in days | Weight | Tot. length | Length of closed wing with feathers | Culmen | Length of second primary | Unsheath- of second primary |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2.05g. | 31.25mm. | 6.0mm. | 3.09mm. | 0. | 0. |
| 1 | 3.11 | 44.75 | 7.67 | 3.42 | .58mm. | 0. |
| 2 | 4.75 | 50.33 | 11.30 (5) | 4.13 | 2.63 | 0. |
| 3 | 6.33 | 54.58 | 15.60 (5) | 4.56 | 3.21 | 0. |
| 4 | 8.25 (11) | 62.84 | 20.90 (5) | 6.79 | 7.54 | 0. |
| 5 | 10.44 (11) | 68.08 | 26.0 (5) | 7.83 | 11.79 | 0. |
| 6 | 11.35 (11) | 70.25 | 31.40 (5) | 8.42 | 14.92 | .18mm. |
| 7 | 12.10 | 74.25 | 35.50 (5) | 8.83 | 17.83 | 6.79 |
| 8 | 11.98 | 77.42 | 39.70 (5) | 9.17 | 21.92 | 11.08 |
| 9 | 11.82 | 81.17 | 42.70 (5) | 9.71 | 24.42 | 14.83 |
| 10 | 11.83 (6) | 88.50 (6) | 46.33 (5) | 9.93 (7) | 27.16 (6) | 16.83 (6) |

*Unless indicated in parentheses the average is of twelve nestlings.*

## BEHAVIOR DEVELOPMENT

On the day of hatching the young lay quietly with the head drawn under the body. One placed on the balance for weighing moved restlessly until it managed to regain that position. When one day old they no longer lay with the head under the body. They could creep on wings and legs. When three days old the nestlings while feeding made sounds audible twenty-five feet away. At five days they could grasp objects with the toes, clinging to the nest or to the observer's fingers. At six days they could, if turned on the back, right themselves. At seven days they could follow the movements of objects held near the head; evidence of developing fear was then noted as the nestlings responded to abrupt movements by stiffening the body, opening the mouth, and uttering a loud, quick note. When eight days old their response to an adult carrying food became specific; when the male sang before coming with food, the young called. One eight-day old bird supported his weight clinging to a finger. At eight days, in one nest, the young were first observed facing the entrance. In other nests this occurred at nine days. At nine days two disturbed nestlings spread their tails fanwise in adult manner. At ten days the young made their first attempts to escape from the nest. Five observers reported the departure of the young from one nest.The adult Prothonotary Warblers *chipped* and sang in the tree above the nest but they did not bring much food. The first young bird left the nest at 5:50 P.M., flying onto the screen of the porch beside which the nest was located. As each of the other two left the nest an adult waiting on top of the box flew just in front of the young bird, thus guiding it to shrubbery near the nest. Ten minutes after the first bird had left the nest all three had gone.

## PARENTAL CARE

The adults shared feeding duties, and both removed fecal sacs. During the first three days the female steadily brooded the young. One female, observed from 4:55 to 8:10 A. M., when the young were one day old, spent a total of 70 minutes off and 155 minutes on the nest. Trips from the nest lasted an average of 8.6 minutes, while periods on the nest averaged 19.4 minutes.

One female followed a definite route to the nest; another flew directly to the entrance. Both females uttered a weak *tchip* in approaching or leaving the nest. The males approached after singing nearby. At one nest when the young were eight days old, activities were noted the eight and one-half hours from 8:30 A.M. to 5:30 P.M. The young were fed an average of sixteen times an hour. If both adults arrived at once with food, they paused, quivered their wings, and uttered a weak note. Then the female fed first. Once the male gave his food at the nest to the female, and she gave it to the young. The adults wers seen carrying spiders and insects, small green caterpillars frequently being used. Mr. H. P. Ijams saw a male offer a ten-day old nestling a mayfly. An incubator-hatched bird accepted egg-yolk, ants, ant larvae, crickets, earthworms, and spiders.

The adults displayed when excited by intruders. One female, scared from the nest, spread her tail and rotated her body, crying a shrill note. As the young left one nest the female looked on quietly while the male although he had previously ignored the observer, came near and displayed. One male returned daily to the nest for two weeks after it had been vacated by the young.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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**NOTE:** An extensive Bibliography on The Prothonotary Warbler is contained in a Thesis entitled, "A Study of the Nesting and Development of the Prothonotary Warbler, **PROTONOTARIA CITREA** (BODDAERT)" by Willie Ruth Reed. This thesis is filed in The Library of The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee.

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# THE SEASON

MEMPHIS AREA—Local observations have been considerably curtailed this spring due to gasoline rationing and the fact that so many of our members were away in the Armed Forces. The writers were in the Memphis area during late April and early May (before enlistment) and missed the earlier migration. An exceedingly large influx of migrants was noted on April 22; Burdick listed 29 species of Warblers on that day alone.—The Annual Spring Field Hike was held May 2, at Raleigh on Wolf River, instead of at Lakeview. On this account, most of the water birds usually found were not recorded. Of the 110 species listed, 5 Cape May Warblers were probably the best find of the day. Two of these were collected by Burdick and Mrs. Coffey noted 3 others nearby.——Philadelphia Vireos were found to be fairly common this spring, the first of these transients being taken near Raleigh on May 2. A late Blue-headed Vireo was seen at Germantown on May 5. Northern Water-Thrushes were noted frequently this spring by the writers and several specimens were taken. An early Black-billed Cuckoo was recorded at Germantown on April 27. Two Upland

Plovers were also seen on this date. Notable among the birds unusually common at Memphis this spring were those of the genus *Hylocichla;* the Willow and Grey-cheeked Thrushes being particularly numerous in lowland areas. Hermit Thrushes were found as late as April 30, by Tucker. He also noted a Mourning Warbler on May 5 at "Five Points" and Burdick saw three east of Memphis, one of which he collected, on May 12. Wilson's Warblers were first seen on May 4. Nashville Warblers were unusually common during late April, the daily total running as high as 75.——Olive-sided Flycatchers were recorded by Burdick on May 9 and 12, these being the first spring records for the Memphis area. They were perched on high dead tree-tops and the first was calling. They were collected along with Least Flycatchers on May 5 and 12, and a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher on May 11.——A Slate-colored Junco seen on April 29, constitutes a very late record for this region. Large migrating flocks of Eastern Kingbirds and Nighthawks were noted almost daily this spring.——A trip to Mud Lake on May 1, yielded no unusual species. A few Soras and Lesser Yellowlegs were seen. A pair of Painted Buntings were noted at Lakeview boat dock. Burdick found several pairs of these at Germantown, apparently nesting. Along the grass-grown levee, Grasshopper Sparrows were common and Burdick found several pairs of these at Germantown, apparently nesting. Mrs. Coffey, Misses Smith and James, Messrs. Kent, Keeton, and Powell, spent May 16 listing birds along the south shores of Horn and Mud Lakes. Birds of special interest, from a large list, were a Bald Eagle, a Least Bittern, 3 Amer. Egrets, 5 Great Blue Herons, 3 Yellowlegs and numerous "Peeps." The levee was reported as swarming with Dickcissels and Grasshopper Sparrows, while Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were numerous.

AUSTIN W. BURDICK AND ROBERT TUCKER, Memphis, Tenn.

CLARKSVILLE AREA—In last issue's "Season" we spoke of the possibility that a pair of Red-tailed Hawks and a pair of Great Horned Owls had exchanged the nests they occupied the previous year. This exchange actually took place and was confirmed when on March 21, Clarence Collier, Jr., climbed to the nest in the white oak tree in which the Great Horned Owls had raised a brood of two young last year. He was half-way up the tree before the Red-tailed Hawk came off the nest. Three eggs, incubated 10 days or two weeks, were in it. The nest of another pair of Red-tailed Hawks was located high up in a very large beech tree. To judge from the actions of the adult birds it evidently had young in it on March 25.——Barred Owls had a young owllet, 4 or 5 days old in a nest in a hollow tree on April 1.——About the middle of April, we heard of another Osprey killed at the fishing lake of a resort in this neighborhood, the fourth victim belonging to this species shot there in recent years and the sixth for the county.——During our study of Grasshopper Sparrows on May 31 a large bird flying in the distance attracted our attention as well as that of the Crows of the vicinity. When they looked like blackbirds in comparison to the size of the big fellow, we trained our glasses and realized we were watching an immature Bald Eagle. We lost sight of him when he descended to a perch in some woods far off, but the Crows kept on gathering there and their excitement lasted for quite a while. The long neck and majestic flight further distinguished it from the Red-tailed Hawk. Eagles are not known to mate until several years old so this one was doubtless wandering. ——

Another rare find was that of a Least Bittern which flew up ahead of us on June 10 as we canoed up West Fork Creek.——On May 29, Edward Clebsch found a Black-crowned Night Heron at a pond on the Jim Bailey farm, 6 miles east of town. Along the way to this place, on June 9, he identified a female Bob-o-link among Dickcissels and Grasshopper Sparrows in an alfalfa field. This record is supported by a similar occurrence, on June 2, 1940, when a female Bob-o-link was collected here by me. —— The Swainson's Warbler seems to be making good in extending its distribution. A male was heard repeatedly during the end of May within a stone's throw from my present home on Porter's Bluff Lane above Red River. Two pairs were found on West Fork Creek, but the search for other nesting sites could not be developed.——The Prairie Horned Lark is another species that seems fairly well distributed now, although we have had very few data in the past on its summer residence there. For this year we have four records for well separated localities, in up-land near Red River, McAdoo, Spring & West Fork Creeks, dates April 3, May 30, May 31, June 10, respectively.——The Dickcissel also seems commoner than we previously knew this species to be. It is now inhabiting not only alfalfa and red clover fields, but also lespedeza. The development of these clover crops in our county may actually be a factor in the re-entry of this bird into a territory where he had become rare.——We are still confident that we shall yet be able to make record of the nesting of the Broad-winged Hawk here, as this year is the second time that we have seen these Hawks on dates near the summer solstice.——Acadian Flycatchers were late with their nesting this year. On June 10, when they usually have young out of the nest, 4 out of 6 nests that we examined along Red River and West Fork Creek, were still empty, one had 3 fresh eggs and another 3 young just hatched. Another nest with 3 fresh eggs was found on June 24.——An unusual Cardinal nest was one built inside a rustic building behind some lattice work.——On the wooded bluff rising from Red River just below my home, I found a Worm-eating Warbler feeding on June 27; there was probably a nest somewhere near.——On May 13, as I was returning home on Porter's Bluff Lane at 3:30 A. M., C.W.T., before the moon had set, and as I was listening to the comical slow recitative of two Chats, a rare wild song burst forth from under the bluff. It was too new to me to attempt a rendition; it was long and had considerable rise and fall in it. The singer made himself known when he wound up with the typical, but rapidly given calls of the Kentucky Warbler. Little would I have thought such a rich piece of music could come from an otherwise rather monotonous caller. The White-eyed Vireo, in a beautiful whisper-song given in the fall, and the Grasshopper Sparrow's song described elsewhere in this issue, are other examples of the unexpected talent of some of our birds. ——ALFRED CLEBSCH, Clarksville, Tenn.

NASHVILLE AREA—The season since April has been one of not too much activity on the part of the birds or on the part of most of the observers in the field. The weather has been normal with perhaps an excess of rain. Warblers seemd to be present in fair numbers this spring.——The following notes were made on trips taken with Mr. Ganier: On April 11, the West Meade area was visited and only 4 adult Red-headed Woodpeckers were seen. This was the place where a large number of these birds were observed during the winter. Among the warblers noted on that trip were 7 Blue-wing, 5 Prairie, 5 Myrtle, 4 Black-and-white, and 1 Palm. A Kingbird seen on that date constituted the earliest Nashville record. Blue-gray Gnatsnatchers were recorded rather commonly also, eight being seen On May 15, in Cumberland River bottoms, our best finds were one each of Prairie Marsh Wren, Northern Water Thrush, Bay-breasted Warbler and Black-billed Cuckoo. On May 23, we searched Turnbull River, near Craggie Hope. An interesting find was a nest of the Sharp-shinned Hawk, built 50 feet up in a pine and containing 5 eggs. On June 20, we searched the Stewart's Ferry Pike area, near Gladeville, and among the interesting birds recorded were 19 Grasshopper Sparrows, 3 Lark Sparrows, and 1 Bachman Sparrow. All of the summer resident sparrows occurring in middle Tennessee were recorded on this trip. Our list covered 53 species for the day, including also a Barred Owl being chased by Crows along Stone's River. ——Mrs. Laskey reports that the Phoebe population is back up to normal again after the disastrous winter of 1940. On May 19, she found an injured Coot which had attempted to alight on a concrete highway.——Dr. Spofford had some interesting notes from around his home. A pair of Sparrow Hawks took possession of a nesting box placed for them in the latter part of March. On May 1, there were six eggs in the process of incubation: on May 16, there were 6 downy young. On May 23, all were banded and of these, 4 were fmales. On May 30, 2 left the nest and the parents were feeding the other young in the nest about 4 times per hour. Since then these hawks have been seen chasing a Cooper's Hawk that frequents the neighborhood, apparently not trusting him about their young. A number of interesting nests have been discovered by Dr. Spofford within 100 yards of his home. Among them are the Sparrow Hawk, Flicker, Bewick Wren, Carolina Wren, Mockingbird, Orchard Oriole, Summer Tanager, Cardinal, Chipping Sparrow, Bluebird and Starling. Perhaps most interesting was a nest of the Yellow-throated Vireo, usually a bird of the deep woods, but which raised a brood successfully. He estimates that there are probably 30 species occurring within 200 yards of the house.——Mr. Ganier reported a flock of 20 Cowbirds on a lawn on May 13 and 12 in a flock (at Clarksville) on May 30. These were evidently northern birds still in migration since local Cowbirds had paired in early May and had begun laying.——Mr. B. H. Abernathy found Connecticut Warblers again in May, as described on another page.—— A curtailed spring field day of the Nashville T. O. S. Chapter was held on May 16, through the Overton Hills to Radnor Lake, and 95 species of birds were listed. The most interesting nest was that of a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher which returned to incubate her eggs in an elm sapling while members viewed her from a yard's distance.——CONRAD JAMISON, Nashville, Tenn.

## THE ROUND TABLE

RANDOM NOTES FROM MEMPHIS:— The Purple Martins arrived at my nest boxes, March 21, 1943, but did not begin nesting until the last of April. On May 10, I examined the boxes and counted 13 Martin nests and I believe there were 25 of the birds sleeping in the boxes nightly. An English Sparrow nested in the 30 room box, just 3 doors from a Martin's apart-about 4 pairs of Martins from my neighbor's box and I believe his "tenants" moved in with mine, for there was considerable fighting about my boxes for several days afterwards. Martins consume many dragon flies and almost every flight reveals these insects being brought in. It is interesting to see a Martin drop a dragon fly, then swoop swiftly downward in order to catch a better hold. On June 21, an examination of the Martin nests showed 39 young, an average of 3 to the nests.——A Robin's nest was found 15 feet up in the fork of a weeping willow at my house on March 27. From the roof nearby, 3 eggs were seen in it. On April 22, a cold rain set in and the mother bird sheltered the young for half the day with wings opened umbrella-fashion. When the male brought food, she would move back to permit their being fed. Probably they took turns at sheltering. The young left the nest on April 26 and another brood, from a nest in a pear tree, left on May 24.——A Cardinal's nest was found in an evergreen next to the house on April 11. Three young were later seen in it and they left the nest on May 2. The old male was a banded bird and to my knowledge, has nested adjacent to the house since 1939. To my regret he was found dead in the yard on May 6, but careful examination revealed no external injury.——A Flicker roosted in a box that I had erected for it during the latter part of March, but by April 4, it was found to be then occupied by a grey squirrel. I put an inverted metal protector about the pole to keep the squirrel down. Later, I saw the squirrel make a desperate leap to the pole from a tree and quickly enter the box. Suspecting young, I got a ladder and found that this was the case. Although I at once removed the metal guard, the squirrel removed her babies away during the night.——Seeing Crested Flycatchers prospecting about in early May, I erected a box for them in a walnut tree. A Starling took a fancy to the box and began carrying leaves into it but my air rifle stopped this unwelcomed guest with the first shot. On May 14, the Flycatchers were observed inspecting the box and two days later were seen carrying grass, hair, paper and other materials into it. By June 26, the young had left the nest, for a parent and a bob-tailed young one were in a nearby tree. Examination of the nest box showed it crammed nearly full of nest materials and around the top side, where they would show plainly, were three pieces of snake sloughs (shed skin) without which no Flycatcher's nest would be complete.——SCOTT HUTCHESON, 2109 Harbert Avenue, Memphis, Tenn.

BIRD NOTES ON A TRIP TO REELFOOT LAKE:—Although Red-shouldered Hawks and Barred Owls are the common raptores of Reelfoot Lake, last year the Red-tailed Hawk and Great Horned Owl were also reported. On our visit of April 23, 1943 the ground beneath the owl's nest was searched for pellets and examination of them showed that Cormorant and Egret were included in the owl's diet. (Ganier has suggested (1932) that Duck Hawks might also feed on young Egrets, which nested only a few miles from their eyrie, but careful examination of the pellets in eyries during two years showed no trace of Egret remains).——The activity of a pair of Red-tailed Hawks, observed during April 23-25, indicated that they were nesting close by and less than a mile from the Duck Hawks and Great Horned Owls.——Several other raptores were seen, including Cooper's and Sharp-shinned Hawks, the last mentioned I believe being new to Reelfoot lists. An Osprey was observed carrying a fish and both immature and adult

Bald Eagles were seen overhead.——Black Vultures that were found nesting last year in a hollow log near the owl's nest, were again found to have eggs on April 23, much earlier than the May 15th date of 1942.——At "Cranetown," the season seemed to be much later than last year and only the Double-crested Cormorants were in full nesting activity. A few Ward's Herons and Egrets had eggs but most birds were in early stages of nest building. Several Anhingas were seen but no Night Herons. Many Turkey Vultures were flying overhead; last year the writer saw only Black Vultures.——Blue-winged Teal were especially numerous in almost all flooded fields or ditches. A Pied-billed Grebe, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs and Solitary Sandpipers were seen in similar situations.——In early May of this year, Mr. Harry Adams reported a Hooded Merganser with 7 young in a ditch near the Spillway. ——WALTER R. SPOFFORD, Nashville, Tenn.

NESTING OF PURPLE MARTINS:—I have been experimenting for some years with bird houses—Martin houses in particular—So sometime ago, I decided to make a house with removable nest compartments and have found this plan very interesting and practicable. The house is built as a shell with only three walls, roof, and guide strips for nest drawers to slide in and out on. Walkways are provided on the outside for the birds to walk around on. The drawers usually contain three nest compartments, with entrance openings in the ends and sides to coincide with openings in the outside walls. One end of these drawers, when in position, forms the fourth wall. With this arrangement, any drawer containing interesting nest and contents, can be lowered to the ground for inspection by visitors and then returned without damage being done to the nest or contents. Last year after the first Martin arrived, on February 25th, I made weekly inspections but found no eggs until May 10th. I had begun to feel that they were holding off on account of my disturbing them but after they got started they went ahead with the task of rearing a brood. I can safely say however, that they were never happy during my inspections of their quarters.

The nests are composed of coarse materials, such as tiny twigs, walnut leaf stems, bermuda grass runners, etc., plus a substantial mud wall on the side facing the opening. The mud is added to provide rigidity to this wall, to keep it from flattening down and thus permitting the eggs or young to roll out of the entrance door. During the incubation period, fresh green leaves are placed under the eggs each day, perhaps to offset the dryness in their sun-heated home. The nest compartments are 6 by 6 inches, but instead of building in the center, they get back in one corner as far as they can. I believe they would rather have these rooms 9 inches in length.

Only 10 rooms of the 22 were occupied by Martins, the remaining 12 being taken possession of by English Sparrows in spite of the fact that their nests were removed each week. No Martin's compartment housed more than one brood in a season. My record shows that from 4 to 6 eggs were laid in each nest and that nearly 100 per cent of them hatched. They are tidy housekeepers and any droppings from the young are immediately removed by the adult birds. At the end of the season, however, I found the nests covered with mites. Last year, while standing on a ladder and reaching up to remove a drawer, I found a snake curled up in one of the nests.

It had succeeded in climbing the pole upon which the box was erected. Yes; I now use a glove.——**Louis G. Guth**, R. 1, Box 545, Memphis, Tenn.

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER VS. COWBIRD:—In a Prothonotary Warbler's nest in a tree hole, on West Fork Creek, a set of 6 eggs was found on May 16 and in addition it held an egg of the Cowbird. We are at a loss to know how the female Cowbird managed to lay an egg in the cavity apparently much too small for her. The close quarters probably accounted for the fact that the transgressor had not removed any eggs of the host. The following additional note on Prothonotary Warblers may also be of interest. In our yard on top of Porter's Bluff on Red River, a 4-compartment Dodson Bluebird house is set up. Most of the summer it is taken by a pair of Bluebirds, but when this year, their second brood did not come off, I decided to clean and re-set it, as it was badly leaning. After removing two Bluebird nests,—one with 5 spoiled eggs,—and an unfinished Chickadee nest, I took from the fourth compartment what I recognized too late as the fresh nest of a Prothonotary Warbler. But already the following day the Prothonotary's stirring song was heard again and both male and female examined the different rooms. With much energy the male set to building again. While he labored with many a bill-full of moss and other material, the female, instead of helping in the good work, seemed bent only to argue about the whole affair. Occasionally she was seen slipping into first one, then the other of the remaining compartments. Now they have built nests in three compartments and the female is sitting on the one opposite the room where her mate spent so much labor on a well appointed nest.——**Alfred Clebsch**, Clarksville, Tenn.

COWBIRD EGGS IN A WATER-THRUSH NEST:—On May 11, this year, the writer found a typical nest of the Louisiana Water-thrush in the Bull-Run section, west of Nashville. It was located in a shady ravine and 4 feet above a tiny wet-weather brook, tucked under drifted leaves from the slope above. On close inspection, the nest was seen to contain 3 Water-thrush eggs and 2 of the Cowbird, all fresh. It was suggested by my companion that maybe the Cowbird had removed an egg of her host, since the Water-thrush usually lays 4 or 5. Sure enough, on searching among the leaves that had been packed in around the nest, another egg of the Water-thrush was found, undamaged, and about 5 inches from the entrance. This egg was most likely removed by the Cowbird in order to make room for its own. In a recent issue of *The Wilson Bulletin* (53:211-221), H. W. Hann describes eggs of the Ovenbird being thus removed by Cowbirds. Of between 20 and 30 nests of the Louisiana Water-thrush recorded by local observers, none that I know of have contained eggs of the Cowbird.——**Conrad Jamison**, Nashville, Tenn.

A FLICKER FEEDING HER FLEDGLING:—On the hot afternoon of August 9, 1941, a female Flicker poked into the ground for several hours. As she worked the lawn for ants in the shade at the rear of our house, she was followed by a large fledgling, vociferously squawking for food the entire time. Sometimes he poked his long bill into the ground near her, but frequently hopped very close to her, giving little shrieks. She did not feed at each of these importunities but several feedings were given while I watched through 8x binoculars from an open window. While the youngster inserted his bill into hers from the side and near the base, she opened her beak slightly and made some rapid forward movements of her head so the fledgling could feed on the regurgitated insects, presumably ants. At one time the mother bird worked for several minutes at what appeared to be a cicada in its pupa case which she freed from the hard outer shell by striking it repeatedly with her beak. She made several attempts to swallow it before it finally went down. Immediately afterward, she gave the youngster a feeding. The first bit of food he received contained the cicada, still in one piece, which he attempted to swallow but rejected when it did not go down readily. It landed several inches away. The mother allowed him to resume feeding at her beak when he had finished, she retrieved the cicada and swallowed it.——Amelia R. Laskey, Nashville, Tenn.

LATE NESTING OF THE YELLOWBILLED CUCKOO: On the morning of Aug. 29 my attention was called to a pair of Yellowbilled Cuckoos in a small clump of low cedar trees. On looking more closely I noticed a nest with one or more young in the nest. After feeding one of the young, the female flew away accompanied by the male. That afternoon the nest was deserted. On the morning of August the 30th, another nest was discovered within two hundred yards of the first nest and by a roadside about 10 feet up. Examination showed four eggs, apparently not so far incubated. It was evident that these young birds would still be in the nest as late as mid-September. However, the female must have deserted the nest soon afterward since daily visits thereafter failed to find her at the nest. Both nests were in Idlewild Wood, located on Stone's River, one and one-half miles above Stewart's Ferry bridge. For the past several years observations have revealed that the Cuckoos call on into late August and early September. The reason for this is seen in these two late nesting records. It may be too that the activity of the Screech Owl in the spring and summer make the raising of a brood somewhat difficult during these early months.—G. R. Mayfield, Nashville, Tenn.

A DOUBLE NEST OF CAROLINA WREN:—I have seen and heard of Wrens building their nests in queer places and doing unaccountable things and the following is a good illustration: A pair of Carolina Wrens built a nest in a garage on top of a 2x4 "plate" and behind a wire screen. This nest had the opening on the front side; then another nest was built on top of the other and the hole for this was in the top. When examined, 5 eggs were found to be in the lower "apartment" and 4 in the upper one. The nests were quite bulky. I am sorry to say that the nests were deserted before any of the eggs hatched, probably because of their having been disturbed. ——Jane Farrar, Nashville, Tenn.

JUNE NOTES ON BARN OWLS:—During the latter part of June, 1943, the writers revisited the Barn Owl nesting sites described in this journal for December, 1942, p. 57. At the Franklin, Tenn., site, on June 18, we found 2 young, both females, so well advanced in age that they flew from the nest cavity after we had banded them. Eight days later, June 26, the young owls were noted in the nest cavity and were being fed by the parents. The Woodmont site was visited on June 19 and again on June 29. Each time an adult female flew from the nest cavity, but on climbing to examine, no eggs or young were found. The female birds can be distinguished from the males by their greater size. The Belle Meade site was visited

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on June 19, and found to contain three young, the oldest of which was between 4 and 5 weeks old. We decided to watch their feeding activities and did so the following night, at which time the moonlight was very bright. During the time we watched, from midnight until 4:15 a.m., the male and female, each fed the young twice. The average time spent in the cavity during feeding was 4 minutes; the maximum being 6 minutes and the minimum 3 minutes. Three of the four times, the owls flew directly into the cavity without perching. On June 25, a roosting cavity was found 6 miles south of Franklin, Tenn. Although no owls were seen at the time, there were fresh pellets and other evidences of Barn Owl occupancy. From this site a fledgling of this species was shot on January 3, last, by a farmer who lived near the tree. He was told of the beneficial qualities of these birds and requested to protect them in the future.——WILLIAM SIMPSON AND CONRAD JAMISON, Nashville, Tenn.

APOLOGIES: Four pages of items, chat, news-notes, etc., made ready for this issue, have had to be deferred until our September number because of necessary curtailment in the number of pages we may publish. Sorry. —ED.

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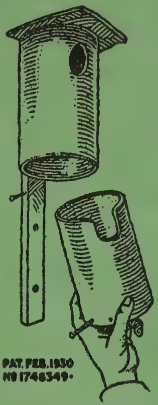

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Division of Birds

# THE MIGRANT

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## NOTES ON THE WINTER FOOD OF BIRDS

By Albert F. Ganier

One of the most interesting phases of bird study is that of their food habits, particularly that of the winter birds, at which season their normal supply of insect food is nearly absent. By a knowledge of these food habits and by ascertaining in the autumn the degree to which certain food supplies will be available during the winter, one can often forecast the degree of abundance of certain species of winter birds.

During the winter of 1938-1939, there was a great scarcity of certain favored foods and a corresponding scarcity of a number of birds which depend upon such foods. A late freeze in April, 1938, was responsible for the almost complete loss of the hackberry, sweet gum, poison ivy berry, and doubtless other wild fruits. The hackberry, a heavy and almost unfailing crop, produced on trees which grow in great abundance in this limestone region, is eaten by almost all species of our winter birds, particularly by Robins, Mockingbirds, Starlings, Flickers, Cardinals, Waxwings, Bluebirds, and Hermit Thrushes. All of these species except the Cardinal swallow the berries whole and later disgorge or pass the seed. The tough, sweetish skin is softened and ground off within the crop and the gizzard and constitutes the food portion of the fruit. In the case of the Cardinal, his strong cutting bill is used to "hull" the seed and this he does by turning them over with his tongue and tossing aside the pits. The Cardinal prefers to choose the seed that have fallen upon the ground, for these have become moist and the skins are more easily removed.

As a result of the great scarcity of hackberries during the winter referred to, almost all of the above-mentioned birds were present in less than normal number, and this was particularly true of the Robins, Starlings, Waxwings, Flickers and Mockingbirds, which are often inclined to remain about some well-cleared farmstead home and depend upon a hackberry tree, must have had a lean winter. Fortunately, there was little or no snow, very little cold weather and the cold snaps were of short duration, else avian mortality would probably have been high during that winter.

The absence of the poison ivy berries that winter brought the greatest scarcity of Myrtle Warblers within the writer's recollection. The usually abundant fruit of the ivy hang on through the winter and a tree well clad with this parasitic vine serves as a rendezvous for the friendly little Myrtles on the coldest winter days. The birds do not swallow the seed but merely remove and swallow the nutritious, waxy covering.

We usually think of the natural food of birds as being insects and such small fruits as are abundant in summer. We become concerned about their welfare when these foods disappear as winter comes on. To meet this situation, those birds which are with us through the cold season effect a radical change in their food habits. By way of illustration, consider the strong-billed Cardinal, so abundant with us the whole year round. In summer, we note these birds constantly gleaning among the tips of tree branches, searching for caterpillars and insects, for these form the bulk of its food as long as available. Then observe them in winter, when they turn to seed and grains. With their strong, toothed beaks, they can split a hard grain of corn and chew it to bits, or dawdling among the dry ragweed stalks, detach and cut through the hard little burs that form their seed to expose the meaty kernel within. At your feeding shelf, you see them easily splitting up the hard sunflower seed. For another example, let us take the Red-headed Woodpecker. If his summer home is in a phone pole, you will note how he takes up a position on a nearby pole or dead tree and sallies forth every now and then to catch passing insects on the wing, after the manner of a flycatcher. Farther south, where figs are raised, he is a summer glutton for this soft, sweet fruit. When winter comes, however, he turns to nuts, such as acorns, beechnuts and small wild pecans, which diet he supplements by the dormant grubs he is able to dig from dead limbs and bark. If a good crop of "mast" is lacking, the Red-head does not remain.

The acorns of the chestnut oak are small, sweet and almost without bitter flavor. As they ripen in the fall, the Red-heads, Blue Jays and Red-bellied Woodpeckers noisily troop to these trees and carry off the nuts. The Red-belly, however, is the only one I have noted to be so provident as to store them away for leaner days to come.

Weak-billed birds like Bluebirds, Hermit Thrushes and Mockingbirds often puzzle us as to the source of their sustenance through the winter, for they are quite unlike the hardy titmice, finches and woodpeckers. These birds find many berries, such as holly, woodbine, poison ivy, hackberry, pokeberry, juniper (cedar), wild grape, sumac and others; often fruits of these that have fallen to the ground. There is insect life, too, to some extent which, while dormant during cold periods, makes its appearance on sunny, warmer days.

Titmice and Chickadees are ever on the move in winter, searching the tree trunks for hibernating insects or their eggs or hopping about on the forest floor, looking among the leaves and twigs for developing larvae or dormant insects. The Titmice are very fond of small acorns in winter and hammer their way into their shells with their sharp beaks. At this season, too, a familiar sight is the little Downy Woodpecker climbing about in a termite-ridden brush pile near the ground or chiseling a hole in the swollen stem of a goldenrod to get at the fat gall grub developing within.

A flock of Towhees will fairly make the leaves fly on the woodland floor as they kick them backward and then look eagerly to see what they may have uncovered. With them will likely be Juncos and a mixed group of native sparrows busily gleaning the innumerable grass and weed seed from near or on the ground. One investigator found that a square rod (16.5'x16.5') of his garden produced 188,000 plants of eight species of weeds the following year when it was not tilled. But for the seed eaters, we might be overrun with weeds for each seed is capable of producing a plant.

As winter wears on, there is a noticeable decrease in the number of birds to be found and the reason for this is because of the toll exacted by predators rather than from starvation. Birds do not suffer as much for food during cold, snowy spells as most people think, though it is true they require more food to keep them warm. Mr. Alfred Clebsch and the writer, following a week of near zero weather several years ago, when snow had continually covered the ground, collected a number of common small birds and found most of them to be in normal physical condition. Only a few of them seemed to have suffered from lack of food.

The above notes cover only a few of our seventy-five or more regular winter species and pages could be written about the others. It is an interesting subject for winter field work and one that merits further study.

NASHVILLE, TENN., Sept., 1943.

## NESTING NOTES OF 1943

By AMELIA R. LASKEY

Due to the various restrictions of wartime, field observations were drastically curtailed this year, but the Bluebird nest-box project in Warner Parks was continued. From 674 eggs, 239 nestlings left the boxes (35.4 per cent success) which, as in previous seasons, is very low for hole-nesting species. There were 90 sets completely unsuccessful, due mostly to snake predation. It was not surprising that no albino eggs were found this year, although in 1942, several Bluebirds laid white eggs. However, their nests were located in the area of heavy cat predation where the remains of some were found and the deserted eggs of others indicated molestation. One park box contained a successful Carolina Wren nest in late July. Two pairs of Chickadees occupied other boxes, from which one brood of eight fledged successfully in early May. The ubiquitous snake not only regularly preys on the boxes but will enter an occupied dwelling to get birds. I pulled a 53-inch "chicken" snake (*elathe*) and a smaller black racer from Bluebird boxes this summer, and one of the employes, whose home is in Percy Warner Park, killed a large "chicken" snake at a bedroom fireplace after it had eaten one Chimney Swift from a brood of four at the base of the chimney behind the hearth.

From March into August, there were seven Dove nests (of three pairs) on our 200x300-foot lot which were about 50% successful. The first squab left the nest April 25 and the last one on August 25. The latter, although it appeared to be 11 or 12 days old, was still unable to fly. It is now being hand-raised indoors and is molting into first winter plumage. "Peace" is a placid baby, never getting excited over the household noises and activities. This lack of fear is probably the reason young Doves are shot so easily at the beginning of the open season in September. Its soft whistle is charming; this sweet little begging note is usually accompanied by wing shaking.

In Edwin Warner Park, a Hummingbird nest only five feet from the ground contained two well-feathered young on June 25. It was a lovely sight, a symphony in green, just level with my eyes. The gray-green lichen-covered tiny nest harmonized with the bronze-green plumage and grayish throats of the sprite-like occupants. They sat high, completely filling the one-inch in diameter cup. One baby opened its beak to me as if begging food. The nest was saddled to a frail drooping limb of a hackberry sapling in a narrow strip of wild growth between a meadow and a country road.

Phoebes were again nesting in Warner Parks in numbers comparable to 1939, before the disastrous freezes of January and February, 1940, decimated their ranks in winter homes farther south. Six culverts were occupied on the outskirts of the Parks, with five nests successful. Each year some nests with eggs are carefully cut from the concrete walls by unknown miscreants. One of my visits occurred at an opportune time to save a baby Phoebe that was hanging, head down, with its claws caught in the rim of the nest above the rather deep creek. After warming its cold body, it was carefully replaced with its four large nest mates in apparently good condition.

Among the Bewick Wrens were two 7-egg and an 8-egg set which produced 7-5-7 surviving young. Many Bewick Wrens use the rural mail and newspaper boxes along roads edging the parks. In one instance, a Bluebird raised four young in a mail box, showing no animosity towards the Bewick's which raised three in the newspaper box a yard away. The front porch of a small house in Edwin Warner Park had sheltered a brood of five Carolina Wrens and also a brood of seven Bewick Wrens in boxes on opposite ends. In another section of the park a chicken house also harbored the two species of Wren simultaneously in July.

Two late Cardinal nests produced 3 and 2 young; the former brood, fledged about August 4. The others, at my home, left on August 12; when trapped later, both were found to be males. Two late Chipping Sparrow nestings occurred in the Parks, where that species is abundant. On July 21, a bird was on the nest with two eggs but was robbed before the next observation. From the other, three young were banded August 2, about six days old. One unique incident occurred in mid-May. From an insecure nest, six feet up in a small pine, four Chipping Sparrows were banded when at least five days old. Two days later, after a high windstorm, three of the banded nestlings were found on the closely mowed grass, huddled in a compact group as if in a nest. They kept that position as I fastened the tilted nest securely When replaced, they settled contentedly. Usually Chipping Sparrows scatter from the nest if touched when a week old. The absence of the parents at the time of my visit was doubtless a contributing factor in their complacency when handled, but the close huddle on the ground in the open seems very unusual.

On August 4, three Field Sparrows, with flight feathers just beginning to unsheath, and a 10-day-old Mockingbird were banded in their nests.

A Catbird built fifteen feet up in the top-center of an elm tree along a park drive, from which four nestlings were banded on June 25. This tree is usually occupied by Mockingbirds and the site is quite different from the tangle of undergrowth commonly chosen by Catbirds for nesting.

At home a Brown Thrasher nest contained four of her own eggs and one of the Cowbird in May (described elsewhere in this issue).

The Fish and Wildlife Service of Washington, D. C., have just sent the following reports on recovered nestlings: Red-shouldered Hawk banded

5/21/40 in nest on River Road was caught in a trap October, 1942, at Bumpus Mills, Tenn., 60 miles northwest; Great Horned Owl banded 4/7/39 in nest near Radnor Lake was shot 7/24/42 in that area; Meadowlark banded in nest near my home 6/17/41, was killed by a cat 11/6/42 at Akron, Ala., 240 miles south.

NASHVILLE, TENN., Sept., 1943.

## NESTING OF THE RED-TAILED HAWK

By HARRY S. VAUGHN

In the Spring of 1917, while on a walk with my son, William, through the Overton Hills forest north of Radnor Lake, we flushed a Red-tailed Hawk from her nest eighty feet up in a huge shag-bark hickory. Since this was our first nest of this species, William was for attempting to climb the tree at once. After surveying the difficulties, I suggested that we would likely find another one easier of access.

It so happened, however, that we did not accomplish this during that season, so during the winter William frequently brought up the subject of the hawk's nest, offering various suggestions as to how the climb might be made. March 23 of the following spring found us again in this same woods and again we flushed one of the big Red-tails from the nest. William this time was not to be outdone and insisted that we could work out some way whereby he could get to the nest.

The thirty-inch trunk was devoid of branches for fifty feet and with the loose, down-pointing hickory bark to contend with, climbing the body of the tree, even with spurs and safety belt, was almost impossible. A solution presented itself, however, in the shape of a tall, slender oak tree which grew ten feet from the hickory. Its upper limbs went past a large limb of the hickory that extended half way to it. By climbing the smaller tree to this point, William was first able to pass a twine string over the limb and then with it to lead a 100-foot ¾-inch rope over it and thence to the ground. He then descended the small tree about fifteen feet and tied one end of the rope securely under his shoulders. By grasping the other section of the rope, which extended on down to us on the ground, we were able to swing him across to the hickory where he could seat himself on a limb of the latter and disengage the rope. The rope was tied there for later use. From this point on up to the nest, still far overhead, there were limbs enough not to make the climb too difficult.

Upon finally reaching the underside of the big nest there came up the problem of how he might get around the brim, for the limbs had become small here and forked outwardly. His first thought was to burrow upward through one side of the nest, but this developed into an endless job. Finally, by breaking off the more extended sticks and with the aid of both nest and a limb, he drew himself over and sat on the nest to survey its contents. In the midst of a snug, warm lining of various fibres, there were three dull white eggs marked with spots of pale brown. They being new to our local collection, he packed them snugly in his collecting box and lowered them to us on the ground. The descent on down to where he had left the rope was uneventful. At that point he again tied one end of the rope under his shoulders and with the other end looped over the limb we lowered him to the ground where he received congratulations all around. Three hours had been consumed in completing the climb, but this is one experience in his life which he says he will never forget.

During the years that followed, we found a number of nests of the Red-tail, but none so interesting or as difficult to reach. A brief summary of these is as follows:

March 29, 1919; 60 feet up in a hickory tree, in South Hollow of the Overton Hills, near road to Franklin Pike; 2 eggs; incubation 10 days.—April 12, 1919; 70 feet up in maple tree; located on side of hill in Big Hollow of Overton Hills; 2 eggs.—March 13, 1920; 70 feet up in an elm; same general location as above; 2 eggs.—April 18, 1920; 65 feet up in a hickory; west of Nashville in Bell's Bend of Cumberland River; 3 eggs.—March 15, 1921; 45 feet up in a white oak; Brick House Hollow of Overton Hills; 2 eggs.—March 19, 1921; 50 feet up in hickory on hillside; Chatolah Hills on Hillsboro Road; 2 eggs.—March 16, 1922; 25 feet up in an oak; Cumberland River bluffs near River Road; 2 eggs.—March 12, 1927; 75 feet up in a maple; Bell's Bend of the Cumberland.

These hawks will continue to occupy the same woods year after year unless conditions are altered. There are usually two old nests available at the beginning of the season and one is added to and used if it is in fair shape. Some nests have been known to be used over a period of four or five years though often a year or two of their use may be skipped during this period.

NASHVILLE, TENN., May, 1943.

## NOTES ON MISSISSIPPI BIRDS

By M. G. VAIDEN

In three previous papers (THE MIGRANT, Sept., 1939, June, 1940, and Sept., 1940), I have given notes on birds of the Rosedale area that would appear to be of interest for one reason or another. As in the foregoing papers, these notes have to do chiefly with the determinations of subspecies by various authorities who have examined specimens from this locality that I have submitted to them. Where such determinations have been made, the initials appearing at the end of each notation show to whom I am indebted, thus: (A.W.), Dr. Alexander Wetmore and (H.F.), Dr. Herbert Friedman, both of the U. S. National Museum; (P.B.), Dr. Pierce Brodkorb, of the University of Michigan. Species for which no initials are shown, were identified by the writer.

Rosedale is situated in the northwest section of the State, on the Mississippi River, and 110 miles southwest of Memphis. The fact that it is on the migration route of both eastern and western races of a number of species, makes subspecific identifications of birds from this area of perhaps more than ordinary interest.

Eastern Least Bittern, *Ixobrychus exilis exilis*.—This has been a common nesting species about Legion Lake until Spring of 1940 when it was partially drained and placed in cultivation. Fourteen nests were found built in small willows during the spring of 1938, on four acres that had a plentiful supply of these willows growing from the water. A female was taken on May 18, 1940, at this locality.

Wood Duck, *Aix sponsa*.—An interesting roost of this, our most beautiful duck, was observed carefully each day for three winters and a daily count made as these birds came in to roost among the willows at Legion Lake. This roost was used during the late fall and winter of 1938, 1939, and 1940. Our highest count was on January 28, 1940, when 418 ducks were counted as they came in to roost. This count was made during the severe weather of January 26 to February 3, 1940, when ice formed on the lake two to four inches thick. On the late afternoon of February 2, certain law-breakers located the roost and many of the ducks were killed. On the afternoon of February 3, 64 came in to roost; February 4, 29; and on February 5, only 14. The great concentration had moved to more protected areas.

Hooded Merganser, *Lophodytes cucullatus*.—This is a fairly common to common bird here during winter. A specimen was collected November 14, 1938, at Legion Lake.

Sharp-shinned Hawk, *Accipiter striatus velox*.—A specimen was taken at the sheds of the compress after it had chased an English Sparrow into one of the compress sheds. They are fairly common winter residents here.

Barn Owl, *Tyto alba pratincola*.—Several live birds, which had been trapped or captured in gin-house seed pipes, have been given to me during the past five years. Most of the birds had leg injuries. These birds have remained in captivity up to three months and seemed healthy and fully recovered from their experience when given their freedom. A leg of one was amputated just below the knee, the limb having been completely crushed in a steel-trap. On the forty-third day, March 3, 1942, it was given its freedom, having regained its health and learned to depend on its remaining leg.

Short-eared Owl, *Asio flammeus flammeus*.—A specimen was taken on March 18, 1940, near Rosedale; it was a male in good plumage.

American Coot, *Fulica americana americana*.—Nests with eggs have been located by the writer, on two occasions, near Rosedale. A specimen collected on May 28, 1933, at Lake Beulah, contained eggs.

Semipalmated Plover, *Charadrius semipalmatus*.—While these shore birds are recorded each spring season, the spring of 1940 provided an abundant migration. Along the road at the base of the levee, 127 were counted in the barrow pits over a ten-mile drive.

Western Willet, *Catoptrophorus semipalmatus inornatus*.—A male was taken on July 24, 1940, at Lake Benoit. (H.F.)

Fish Crow, *Corvus ossifragus*.—A fairly common spring and summer resident along the Mississippi River. A male was taken June 23, 1941, one mile north of Rosedale by Sammy M. Ray.

Gray-cheeked Thrush, *Hylocichla minima aliciae*.—Occosionally an early, warm spring brings this form to us in plentiful numbers. I have specimens taken: a male, April 29, 1939; a female, May 3, 1940; and a male, May 18, 1940, all near Rosedale. (P.B.)

Eastern Hermit Thrush, *Hylocichla guttata faxoni*.—A male was taken December 18, 1936, and a female December 5, 1938, at Legion Lake. (A.W.)

Southern Parula Warbler, *Compsothlypis americana americana*.—A specimen collected on August 22, 1940, a female, was identified as this form. (H.F.)

Scarlet Tanager, *Piranga olivacea*.—A male taken March 27, 1939, an early date, was in an emaciated condition. Examination showed two ticks, one on lower eye-lid, and other at base of upper mandible.

Bachman's Sparrow, *Peucaea aestivalis bachmani.*—A male, taken July 14, 1940, was identified as this form. It was collected by Vaiden and Ray sixteen miles east of Grenada, Miss. (H.F.)

Western Swamp Sparrow, *Melospiza georgiana ericrypta.*—Two specimens, females, taken on December 5, 1938, and January 5, 1939, have been identified as the western form. (H.F.)

ROSEDALE, MISS., August, 1943.

## THE ROUND TABLE

NOTES FROM THE MEMPHIS REGION:—Very little time was available during the past fall for field work in the Memphis area. The writer was there for two short visits, viz: August 7-10 and September 7-12. Migrants were not nearly so numerous as in past years. This can probably be accounted for by the generally clear weather which prevailed on the days that I was afield. Although the Olive-sided Flycatcher has been reported from Memphis in the fall, it was not until this season—on August 8—that an autumn specimen was collected. Incidentally, it was found in the same dead tree from which one was secured last spring.——A trip to Mud Lake on September 8 proved very disappointing, for recent rains had raised the water level too high for shore birds. The only water birds present were several hundred American Egrets and Little Blue Herons and several flocks of Blue-winged Teal. A male Wilson's Warbler was collected in the dense growth bordering the lake.——Several large migrating flocks of Nighthawks were seen from September 7 to 12, at Germantown, east of Memphis.——PVT. AUSTIN W. BURDICK, A.S.T.P., Box 7126, La. State Univ., Baton Rouge, La.

SWIFT NOTES AT MEMPHIS:—The writer was recently home on leave and was able to keep unbroken the string of autumnal bandings of Chimney Swifts started in 1932. Last fall while I was at Ft. Bragg, N. C., Mrs. Coffey, Franklin McCamey (just previous to induction), and other T. O. S. members kept the record continuous by trapping a large flock and banding about 2,400 on September 26, 1942. Of 9 foreign recoveries one was 34-118192, banded August 1, 1934, at Gaspereau, Kings Co., Nova Scotia, by Cyril K. Coldwell. This is the oldest bird handled at Memphis; also from a distance approximately equal to that travelled by a Memphis banded Chimney Swift recovered at Salisbury, New Brunswick.——One of the birds banded and released September 26, 1942, at Memphis (41-44140), went down a Macon, Ga., chimney the night of September 28, 1942, and was examined and recorded the next morning by Raymond J. Fleetwood. This is an air-line distance of 400 miles and southeast.——This fall when I arrived home I planned to trap only if a flock was using Southwestern's Palmer Hall chimney as it was the best possibility for returns although unused the last two years. On the evening of October 6, I found there 3,000 to 4,000 birds, the largest flock ever to use this location. Bands being unavailable for large scale work, there was some delay in rounding up some. In event of a change in the weather I planned to trap without bands, as I estimated from 150 to 300 banded birds would be in the flock. But on October 13, the flock had dwindled to about 400. A heavy rain and windstorm early the next morning prevented trapping. The pleasant weather vanished and only a few, evidently late migrants, went down the next evening. On the morning of October 14, 1943, we banded 243 new birds and had 6 local returns (from 1940-41-42). To carry on I had loaded the trap, cage, three ladders, and other equipment—portions at a time—on a bicycle and pushed it afoot to the campus. All was returned to storage in the same fashion, a unique manner not dreamed of in previous seasons.—BEN B. COFFEY, JR., Ft. Sill, Okla.

A NESTING CENSUS AT MEMPHIS:—A new project was inaugurated by the Memphis T. O. S. Chapter this year in the shape of a nesting census of the birds which had settled to breed on a large and diversified tract of land beyond the city's suburbs. While modeled somewhat after the Audubon Breeding Census, it was not as complete, due to insufficient time being available. It was a good beginning, however, and those who participated expressed their enthusiasm and the wish to repeat it next season. Further data and the results are given below.

PLACE: Forest Hill Cemetery, Highway 51, Bellevue Extended. SIZE: 181 acres. TOPOGRAPHY: In the developed area, which contains 81 acres, dogwood and bush wisteria predominate. Large trees are linden, elm, oak, several evergreens, and other shrubs. The undeveloped area contains 100 acres, 75% open grassy spaces. North and south sides heavily wooded with small creek running through one end. SEASON: Late spring. TIME IN FIELD: 6 hours. WEATHER: Warm, clear day. Temperature 92°. Slight breeze. TOTAL: 41 species. CENSUS: Sparrow Hawk, 2 pairs, 1 individual; Bobwhite, 1 pair with nest, 4 pairs; Mourning Dove, 7 pair with nests, 13 pair with young; Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 3 pair with nests, 7 individuals; Chimney Swifts, 8 individuals; Hummingbird, 1 individual; Flicker, 4 pair wth nests, 2 pair; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 1 pair; Red-headed Woodpecker, 1 pair with young, 1 pair; Downy Woodpecker, 1 pair; Kingbird, 1 individual; Crested Flycatcher, 1 pair with nest, 5 pairs; Wood Pewee, 1 pair with nest, 2 individuals; Purple Martin, 12 individuals; Blue Jay, 5 pairs with young; Crow, 2 individuals; Carolina Chickadee, 3 pair with young; Tufted Titmouse, 1 pair; Carolina Wren, 1 pair with nest, 2 pair, 3 individuals; Mockingbird, 5 pair with nest, 2 pair with young; 6 individuals; Catbird, 2 pair; Brown Thrasher, 8 pair with nests, 2 individuals; Robin, 10 pair with nests, 15 pair with young; Wood Thrush, 10 pair with nests, 3 pair with young, 4 individuals; Shrike, 1 individual; Starling, 3 pair with nest, 2 pair with young; White-eyed Vireo, 2 pair with nests; Red-eyed Vireo, 2 pair with nests, 2 pair feeding young; Warbling Vireo, 3 individuals; Parula Warbler, 2 pair with young; Maryland Yellow-throat, 5 pairs, 5 individuals; Yellow-breasted Chat, 6 individuals; English Sparrow, large number; Meadowlark, 6 pair; Orchard Oriole, 2 pair; Baltimore Oriole, 1 pair; Bronzed Grackle, 20 pair with nests, 2 pair with young; Cowbird, 1 individual; Summer Tanager, 1 pair, 4 individuals; Cardinal, 4 pairs with nests, 1 pair with young, 10 pair; Indigo Bunting, 4 pair.

NOTES: We thought the most interesting discovery of the day was the finding of two Parula Warbler families. The parents and young were "out on a limb" and we were unsuccessful in finding a nest. As there is no Spanish moss here for them to build in, it would be of interest to know how they constructed their nests. Some of our members were astonished at the amount of paper the Wood Thrush uses in its nest. A visitor remarked, "Well, here is another nest of the bird that uses so much paper." A Bob-white's nest with twelve eggs was found on a grave in the cemetery; it is not likely that the colored cemetery workers would have appropriated the eggs to eat, even though they had been found while fresh. Bluebirds were here earlier in the season but for the first time did not nest in the area. This is thought to be due to the presence of the Starlings.

OBSERVERS: Tom Boyce, Mary Davant, Mrs. Irene Daniels, Victor Julia, Laura Brasher, Hallie Hurley, Lawrence Kent, Mary Mason, Dr. C. E. Moore, Alan Phillips, Alice Smith, Maurice Torti, and Mrs. M. L. Torti (compiler), all of Memphis, Tenn.

PURPLE GALLINULE IN ARKANSAS AND IN MEMPHIS AREA:—W. J. Baerg, in his "Birds of Arkansas" (1931), lists several species of birds on circumstantial evidence, there being apparently no records for their occurrence in Arkansas. Several species treated thus, occur regularly at Memphis and their status in that area can with certainty be applied to eastern Arkansas. The scarcity of specific records for that State continues, however, as our trips out of Memphis are generally confined to Tennessee and Mississippi, but as stated, we would not expect birdlife across the river to differ materially. The Purple Gallinule, an uncommon but not rare transient at Memphis, is one of Baerg's hypothetical species. Since Dr. Wm. Deaderick, in his 1938 list of the birds of the Hot Springs area (*Wilson Bul.*, 1938, 257-273), also fails to list this species, we are giving below three specific records. On August 25, 1940, enroute from Memphis to Little Rock and Hot Springs, we saw a Purple Gallinule among the lily pads in a roadside ditch west of Hazen, which is 90 miles southwest of Memphis. At the Lonoke Fish Hatchery we expected to find others but did not. However, they probably occur there, too. The above roadside record was brought to the attention of other observers who subsequently found this species at approximately the same location. These were: Norman P. Hill and Richard Bower (Harvard students on a bird trip) on June 25, 1941, and Robert Tucker and Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Tucker on July 20, 1941.——Records from the immediate Memphis area are all of single birds and are from the levee borrow-pits near Lakeview, Miss., about half a mile south of the Tennessee line. The above records will be found in THE MIGRANT, in Memphis seasonal notes (June issues) and are as follows: May 8, 10, and 15, 1932; May 30, 1933; May 4 and 16, 1935; and May 3, 1936. At Corinth, Miss., Benj. R. Warriner reports single birds at Liddon Lake on May 6, 1937 (1937:37) and April 26, 1939 (1939:31). At the Tupelo, Miss., fish hatchery, the writer saw 5 on June 19, 1939, which date would indicate nesting thereabout. A few have been found in the heronries near Greenville, Miss., and one nest noted there by the writer. Mr. Ganier has recorded this species at Reelfoot Lake, Tenn.——BEN B. COFFEY, JR., Fort Sill, Okla.

STARLINGS REMOVE LARVAE FROM BACKS OF CATTLE:—The following report was recently made to Mr. Ben B. Coffey by Mr. S. E. Morton, Jr., one of his correspondents. "Mr. Zeb Hodges, who lives at Eddiston, about 22 miles west of Brookhaven, Miss., told me recently in conversation of an unusual feeding habit of the English Starling. He stated that during the long, extremely cold spell of late January, 1940, when we had snow on the ground here for about three weeks, that he had observed a large number of strange birds pecking the heel-fly grubs out of the backs of his cattle and eating them. He described the birds as large, brown-speckled black birds with short tails and rather long beaks, and the Starling is the only bird of this description. He was feeding 200 head of beef cattle at this time and has been feeding a herd of this size for eight years. Although he has handled cattle all of his life, he has never seen a bird draw grubs from their backs before nor has he witnessed it since. Cattle are infested with these heel-fly grubs in the winter and they are commonly called "wolves" by farmers. They stay under the hide, developing to an inch in length, and finally enlarge the breathing hole and leave.—S. E. MORETON, JR., 701 So. Church St., Brookhaven, Miss.

EDITOR'S NOTE:—The Starling has only been a winter visitant to the deep South for the past two decades and in process of adopting itself to new conditions in this country, may eventually form a regular habit of searching cattle backs for the larvae above described. Cowbirds, which follow the cattle about looking for insects they stir up, may occasionally be seen alighted on their backs, even while they move about, presumably enjoying the perch upon a friendly animal and probably gleaning a few flies and hide insects, too.

THE SEASON AT OXFORD, MISS.—While no exact weather data were available for the period of my stay here (beginning September 22), it seems certain that the average temperature was subnormal for this time of year. This is in keeping with the fact that many species appeared earlier than usual and few remained later than usual. The following arrival dates seemed significantly early: Sept. 29, Cedar Waxwing; Oct. 2, Brown Creeper and Blue-headed Vireo; Oct. 7, Golden-crowned Kinglet; Oct. 8, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker; Oct. 9, Myrtle Warbler; Oct. 10, Swamp and Lincoln's Sparrows; Oct. 11, Red-breasted Nuthatch; Oct. 12, White-throated Sparrow; Oct. 23, Vesper Sparrow and Slate-colored Junco; and, Oct. 30, Pine Siskins—a flock of sixteen. Robins were not seen on my visit here on September 17, but were very common on the 22nd; at least some of those present on the later date must have been migrants.——Interesting arrivals, which are not very early, were noted on the following dates: Oct. 3, Short-billed Marsh Wren, Philadelphia Vireo, Scarlet Tanager, Oven-bird, and Nashville Warbler; Oct. 21, Ruby-crowned Kinglet; Oct. 22, Winter Wren; Oct. 23, White-crowned, Song, and Henslow's Sparrows, and Cormorant. The Henslow's Sparrow was carefully studied with 8X glasses when it finally perched at a distance of about 6 feet.——Exceptionally late departures were the following: Oct. 22, Blackburnian and Parula Warblers; Oct. 23, Indigo Bunting and Barn Swallow; Oct. 29, Black-throated Green Warbler. Other departure dates were: Sept. 30, Red-eyed Vireo; Oct. 1, Wood Thrush; Oct. 3, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Summer Tanager, and Hooded Warbler; Oct. 8, Gray-cheeked Thrush; Oct. 10, Yellow-throat, Wood Pewee; Oct. 22, Magnolia Warbler; Oct. 23, Short-billed Marsh Wren; Nov. 2, Tennessee Warbler.——Branch Howe, a G. O. S. member from Decatur, Ga., visited the writer on October 22-24, and is joint authority for the records made on those dates. At Sardis Reservoir we obtained a list of 60 species on the 23rd.——Coffey's list of Mississippi birds includes the Goldfinch only as a questionable summer resident in northeastern Mississippi, but an individual seen here on September 24, probably had summered. The fall migration of the species does not begin until a month later.——The Black-throated Green Warbler and the Blue Jay are more abundant here than I have ever known them to be elsewhere. Evidence of the Blue Jay's migrating here has been obtained by the observation of two small flocks flying overhead in a southwesterly direction.—HENRY M. STEVENSON, Dept. of Biology, Univ. of Mississippi, Oxford, Miss.

THE SEASON AT NASHVILLE:—September was a poor month for Warblers and Vireos, probably because of the fact that the weather was relattively even, which would not tend to cause them to "dam up" in large numbers. During the first few days of October, however, the Warblers came through in fair numbers. Perhaps October 10 was the best day reported, and Dr. Anderson, in company with Dr. Mayfield, counted 11 species of Warblers at Radnor Lake, with 24 Myrtle, 12 Black-throated Green, and 8 Magnolia in the lead for numbers. Also seen on the above date at Radnor Lake were 2 Philadelphia Vireos (differentiated from the more common Red-eyed Vireo by the smaller size and the yellowish underparts), 1 Great Blue Heron, 1 Osprey, and a Brown Creeper.——This appears to have been a good year for Red-breasted Nuthatchers. The writer has recorded them on three occasions, the first was from near Murfreesboro, on October 2, when two birds were seen together; on October 9, another individual was seen on the Hillsboro Road, near the city limits; and on the fall field day, October 25, in Shelby Park, a bird of this species was observed by most of the group.——The writer in company with Mr. Ganier, on September 5, visited the Westmeade area where Red-headed Woodpeckers were found in abundance last fall and only 2 Red-heads were in evidence. An Olive-sided Flycatcher, and a migrating flock of 58 Nighthawks were the other items of interest among the 32 species recorded on a rainy afternoon.——On September 19, enroute to Percy Warner Park, we noted a flock of about 15 Chipping Sparrows, but birds were very scarce that day because of a steady rain.——On September 26, we visited Mr. Ganier's camp on the Stone's River and recorded 51 species for the day. Among the birds seen were 3 unidentified Empidonax Flycatchers, 1 Rose-breasted Grosbeak, 2 Northern Waterthrushes, 1 Canada Warbler, 5 Cedar Waxwings, 1 House Wren, 1 Prairie Marsh Wren, 2 Semipalmated Sandpipers and a Pectoral Sandpiper.——On October 18, we visited the Cumberland River bottoms above Shelby Park and listed 44 species. Included in this list were 2 flocks of Redwings, 12 Cowbirds, 2 Brown Creepers, 2 Savannah Sparrows, 2 Song Sparrows, 4 Swamp Sparrows, 1 Winter Wren, 1 Rose-breasted Grosbeak, 3 Palm Warblers and a Maryland Yellowthroat. The last mentioned was a very late record being exceeded only by October 18 and October 20 dates in former years. Mr. Ganier reported 3 Olive-sided Flyatchers on August 29 and the first Black-throated Green Warbler.——On September 6, Austin Burdick, of Memphis, spent the morning in the Radnor Lake area and made the exceptionally fine "one man list" of 63 species. Included in his list was a flock of Black Terns, an Olive-sided Flycatcher, a Least Flycatcher, and a Veery which he collected and tentatively identified as the western form *H. f. salicicola.*——On our T. O. S. Fall Field Day, on October 25, in the Cumberland bottoms, rain curtailed our activities but we made a good list. Birds of especial interest noted were a number of flocks of Cedar Waxwings (some feeding on poke berries), 4 Winter Wrens, 2 Red-shouldered Hawks, a pair of Barn Owls (on Woodmont Boulevard), the Red-breasted Nuthatch above mentioned, and a Yellow-billed Cuckoo, which was one of our latest fall records. The only Warblers seen were 5 Palms and 15 Myrtles.—CONRAD JAMISON, Nashville, Tenn.

FALL COURTSHIP OF THE SPARROW HAWK:—Abortive nesting and courtship behavior in the fall months has been described for a variety of birds but the writer has seen no reference to such behavior in Falcons. September 26, 1943, was a cool and beautifully clear day. A short time after sun-up, I began to hear a pair of Kestrels or Sparrow Hawks (*Falco sparverius*) calling vociferously as they coursed back and forth over the openly wooded pasture country around my home. Going outside, I could see at once that the male was engaging in a spectacular display of typical courtship flight, such as one may admire on any fine day in March. Towering several hundred feet in the air, he threw himself in headlong stoops past the female as she perched or flew from tree to tree, and his insistent *killee-killee-killee*, could be heard almost continuously. About nine in the morning he flattened out for a stoop and sailed up to a conspicuous hole in a tall dead tree, clung to the edge with his tail braced against the trunk and peered within, giving the conversational(?) *kitter-er-er-r-r-r* call. This nest seeking behavior continued at intervals between various aerial acrobatics, and sometimes the female also flew to one of the nest-holes after the male but she usually flew off and he followed, soon to repeat the whole performance. Part of these actions were recorded by the writer on color movie film.—WALTER R. SPOFFORD, Nashville, Tenn.

ANOTHER NASHVILLE PEREGRINE FALCON RECORD:—Mr. Dana Struthers, of Minneapolis, temporarily at the Air Classification Center at Nashville, told the writer that on September 27, 1943, while on one of the recreation fields at the Center, he had observed a small hawk flight. During less than an hour and at mid-day, he saw five Cooper's Hawks pass over and an adult male Peregrine (*Falco peregrinus anatum*), the latter being easily identified by his black cheek patches seen as he passed close overhead. Mr. Struthers and his older brother, James, now an Army pilot, have been very active banding hawks in Minnesota. They not only band eyess Peregrines in their eyries along river cliffs, but also net a variety of passage hawks including Goshawks and Merlins or Pigeon Hawks (*Falco columbarius*) in their fall flight. Most numerous of such captures were the Sharp-shin.——WALTER R. SPOFFORD, Nashville, Tenn.

BROWN THRASHER PARASITIZED BY COWBIRD:—On May 12, 1943, I found a Brown Thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*) incubating 4 eggs plus 1 of the Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*). The nest was 4½ feet up in a bushy spirea prunifolia edging a dense shrub border at my home. As parasitism of Brown Thrashers by Cowbirds is considered rare, the egg was not removed, as I hoped to get further data. On the 16th, incubation of the 5 eggs was still in progress, but when the nest was again visited on the 18th, the Cowbird egg and one Thrasher egg were missing. The pair came to the nest, fussing at me. Their behavior and the warmth of the remaining 3 eggs indicated the disturbing element had not caused desertion. However, at my next inspection, May 22nd, the nest was intact but empty, which pointed to either a snake or a bird as the predator.——Dr. Herbert Friedman has for many years collected all authentic records of Cowbird parasitism and states that the known hosts of *Molothrus ater* now total 149 forms (1943 *Auk* 60, p. 352). In his book, "The Cowbirds" (1929, p. 253), he states the Brown Thrasher is "a decidedly uncommon victim of the Cowbird. This is the largest passerine bird affected by the parasite." In 1934, he stated, there are now 10 definite records of Brown Thrasher nests parasitized (*Wilson Bull.* 46, p. 32). His subsequent publications have added no further instances. As the egg found in the nest at my home had been accepted and was being incubated by the hosts, it may be considered the 11th record for *Toxostoma rufus* by *Molothrus ater* and the first reported from Tennessee.—AMELIA R. LASKEY, Nashville, Tenn.

THE SEEDS BURIED BY BLUE JAYS:—Since publication of my note in THE MIGRANT of December 1943 (13:72) on a resident pair of Blue Jays burying food during periods of abundance, I have had opportunities to make further observations. It is apparent these Jays remember the locations of their caches but have no way of knowing the exact spot of concealment of each seed; consequently they do not find all they have hidden and some are left to germinate. In late March and early April, after nesting activities had started, I saw one individual at a time searching some of the places where in December they had been seen burying sunflower seeds and bread. The Jay hopped over each area, diligently examining the ground or lawn, often poking leaves or debris aside with its beak to peer underneath. In one instance the search was not rewarded by the finding of a single seed; at another time several were uncovered. Once, two seeds were taken from the same hiding place and as usual were carried to a nearby tree. One seed was retained in the bird's mouth temporarily while the other was transferred to the limb, held in place with one foot and shelled by pounding with the beak. It is quite obvious that a number of seeds were not located. This spring, in the various places used as caches, I have found sunflower plants pushing upward on the lawns and other spots where none had ever been scattered by me. That more than one seed is often hidden in the same depression is further proven by the finding of several "twin," and in one instance four, sunflower plants springing from it.—AMELIA R. LASKEY, Nashville, Tenn.

GOLDFINCHES AND COREOPSIS SEED:—Near my bird bath No. 2 is a bed of coreopsis. I allowed the flowers to go to seed in order to attract the Goldfinches. I was well rewarded because as long as the seed lasted the Goldfinches were feeding there. I have often wondered how the weak stem of the coreopsis could support the weight of a Goldfinch while it tugged at the unripe seed pods. This summer I saw how this was done. A Goldfinch lit on one stem and with its beak pulled another stem over and held it in its claw, reached out to the side and gathered in another stem which it held with the other two. The operation was repeated until a regular little platform was formed, braced on all sides and capable of holding up under the pecking and tugging at the seed. I examined the flower bed and found many little groups of stems thus bent together. This discovery gave me a real thrill. Now the scene has changed, winter is here and only the stock company remains, with a few winter visitants added to entertain me. It is food now as well as water that attract my players. Yesterday, Dec. 1, I counted ten

Cardinals in the plum tree, five Mockingbirds are in the yard, one of these sings a few notes every morning, and sparingly during the day. As the curtain falls at the end of each day's performance, it is with a feeling of gratitude I bid my feathered actors good night.—JAMIE ROSS TIPPENS, Nashville, Tenn.

BEWICK'S WREN NESTING:—Early in the spring, a Bewick's Wren came to a big long handled gourd which hangs in an arbor near my plum tree. He kept himself very busy building a nest therein, and sang lustily all the while. I watched him bring sticks three and four inches long, holding them in the center until he reached the gourd, then trying each time to put them through the small hole, and each time sliding his beak down to near the end of the stick so he could take it inside. He kept up his joyous singing and puttering about like a man whistling at his work, until a female arrived and accepted the ready-made home. These little birds seemed to have a lot of fun rearing their family. They came with beaks filled with food, would perch near the gourd, flutter their wings delightedly, then pop inside in a most disconcerting manner, no preliminaries; you would see them, then you wouldn't; out they would come in the same manner to sit a moment and sing, before they were off on the food hunt again. If they both arrived at once, one would enter the gourd, dispose of the food in its beak, then accept the food the other bird offered from the outside. The first brood of five remained in the nest until they were fully feathered and had tails about an inch long. On April 24th, as I peeped in at them, out they flew in quick succession like five feathered bullets. Their target being the top of the plum tree, and each one made a "bulls-eye." The second brood, also five in number, was reared in the same nest, and the young left home June 18th when they were so tiny they were not fully feathered, still wearing tall fuzzy eye-brows, and they couldn't fly, except in a struggling way to the lower stems of some hardy asters nearby. I was horrified, and feared none of them would survive. Upon examining the gourd I found it alive with mites. Hereafter I will clear away the nests as soon as they are deserted. I still feel ashamed when I think how the wrens must have suffered because of my negligence.—JAMIE ROSS TIPPENS, Nashville, Tenn.

RAPID RE-RENTAL IN A WOODPECKER HOUSE:—In late March, a pair of Red-bellied Woodpeckers were busily engaged in digging out a nesting hole in a dead walnut tree in my front yard. Something went wrong, the birds choosing another site, and by the first of May a pair of Red-headed Woodpeckers were in full possession, but making extensive alterations, if one could judge by the amount of "sawdust." During this period Mr. Roger Peterson made a series of photographs of the birds at the nesting hole. Again something went wrong, the birds eventually raising two young at a new site. In June the activity of a pair of Flickers attracted my attention as they busily enlarged the opening, and in July four young left the nest.——During August I have frequently had the pleasure of a pair of Pileated Woodpeckers visiting my front lawn, and next year I can hope that they, too, will make use of the woodpecker apartment house! (This account would not be complete without mentioning that a pair of Starlings stopped to inquire about the rent, but their occupancy was not encouraged.)—WALTER R. SPOFFORD, Nashville, Tenn.

BIRD NOTES FROM FALL CREEK STATE PARK:—During mid-September, the writer and Dr. Thomas Butler bicycled down to the Fall Creek Falls Park area and spent several days of enjoyable bird study in and about the remarkable canyons eroded from the Cumberland Plateau. A list of birds observed on the way contained nothing unusual, although a number of hawks, some probably migrating, were seen. Among these were one Sharp-shin, several Cooper's, a number of Red-tails, and an Osprey. The diminutive and beautifully marked Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*) was a frequent sight, perched or flying along the highways.——Within the park area we saw one very large wild turkey running across the road, and another half grown young about a mile away. Over near Piney Falls the tracks of a full grown turkey were seen along a muddy path.——Looking down the canyon from the "high" falls, we noted conspicuous white-wing patterns in the pine grove at "Inspiration Point" and heard the loud calls of the Pileated Woodpecker. Field glasses revealed a scene of high excitement, for two accipiters (either Sharp-shinned or male Cooper's) were harrying two woodpeckers from tree to tree. As each cackling Pileated took flight to a tree further on, one small hawk stooped and all but rode the back of the larger bird, only to separate as the woodpecker took refuge in another tree. As there were two pair of birds, there was constant activity for over twenty minutes when we terminated our observation. It is possible that the hawks were playing, but it is also possible that they were actually seeking food and that the great size and nonchalant demeanor of their prospective "prey" was such that they were unable to spur themselves to an actual attack.——During an hour or two's observation of the falcon's eyrie site in the big canyon, no signs were seen of occupancy of the old site. Previous trips (in Sept. '40, April '41, July '41, and April '42) had revealed no birds, and the writer was beginning to feel discouraged about this eyrie. As we watched a group of Turkey Vultures circling below the cliff, we suddenly heard the stirring *Kai-ai-airt! Kairt! Kack-kack-kack-kack!* of a Peregrine Falcon, and saw her launch forth over the gulf, circle upward for several hundred feet, and then throw herself in a perpendicular stoop into the vultures which fell off in a wild confusion of ponderous black wings as she passed through them. Soon she returned to her eyrie and we saw no further sign of her.—WALTER R. SPOFFORD, Nashville, Tenn.

RETURNS FROM CHIMNEY SWIFTS BANDED AT KNOXVILLE:—We have received information concerning some of the Chimney Swifts taken at the chimney of the University of Tennessee Law College, September 20, 1942, in the trapping carried out by our Knoxville group. Concerning these I have the following to report: Six of the birds had been banded by Irvin Sturgiss, three of them at Blind River, Ontario, Canada, and the others at Lexington, Mo. Two had been banded by L. E. Hicks at two different places, one at Ashland, Ky., the other at Portsmouth, Ohio. One was banded by Gertrude Rennecker at Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio. One was banded by George H. Lowery, Jr. ,at Baton Rouge, La. Of the above mentioned birds, five had been banded in 1938, two in 1940, and three in 1941. Information concerning the other banded birds captured is as yet incomplete.—HENRY MEYER, Dept. of Zoology, University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

RECENT RECORDS OF DUCK HAWK AND RUFFED GROUSE IN ALABAMA:—During a recent visit to that part of Lookout Mountain which extends into Alabama, near Mentone, the writer observed on June 11, 1943, a cliff which appeared suitable for the nesting of the Duck Hawk (*Falco peregrinus anatum*). This cliff bordered the DeSoto River, just below DeSoto Falls. Although no evidence of its nesting there could be found, it was felt advisable to describe the bird to a native, A. A. Miller, living nearby and inquire as to its occurrence in that region. He stated that he had killed two "blue-tails," but that he did not believe the species to nest on this cliff; however, he frequently had seen one perched on a dead tree on the north slope of the mountain. I started toward this place immediately and, just before reaching it, saw a hawk flying off behind the trees. Taking note of the direction of its flight, I hastened to the nearest open spot and succeeded in getting a brief view of a medium-sized hawk, with pointed wings and of dark slate color. The sex was not identified with certainty, but I thought it was a male. That it was a Duck Hawk was beyond question. The species has previously nested in Alabama in the Tennessee River cliffs below Guntersville and possibly also below Florence (Howell, *Birds of Alabama*, pp. 140-141). The most recent definite record given by Howell (*op. cit.*, p. 119) for the Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus monticola*) in Alabama is the summer of 1913. Inquiry by the writer, however, revealed that a few of these "pheasants" still persist near the junction of the DeSoto and Little Rivers, on Lookout Mountain, several miles southwest of Mentone. During my short stay at Mentone I did not have the opportunity to get into that part of the mountains in an effort to substantiate this statement, but the knowledge of these mountaineers about large birds is usually quite accurate.—HENRY M. STEVENSON, JR., University of Mississippi, Oxford, Miss.

WHIP-POOR-WILL:—In East Tennessee during the spring, I have heard the characteristic song of the Whip-poor-will almost nightly. This fact is not unusual, but then one afternoon on a bright and very hot summer day the Whip-poor-will broke out in song. He sang continuously for about thirty minutes, and then at shorter intervals thereafter. A neighbor told me that it was a sign of rain, and sure enough late that afternoon it did cloud up and rain. However, at the time that the Whip-poor-will began to sing (2:30 p.m.) there wasn't even a cloud, so it couldn't have been a darkening of the sky that caused the bird to start singing. I considered the possibility that the bird might have been scared, or something else had happened to interrupt its natural course of activity. It was hard to believe that there might be some truth in the old superstition that a Whip-poor-will singing in the daytime indicated rain. Then, the next day a little earlier in the afternoon (2 p.m.) the Whip-poor-will began to sing again! Again there was no sign of rain, nor did it rain at anytime during that day or the next! It was four days until the song was heard again, this time at 4 p.m. and still no sign of rain. The daytime singing of the bird apparently does not interfere with his nocturnal concert which he faithfully delivers every night.—ANN KING, Dept. of Botany, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio.

**BLUE GOOSE IN EASTERN TENNESSEE:**—While serving as wildlife technician in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, I observed and photographed a strange goose feeding in Cades Cove, October 30, 1934. No effort was made to identify the bird until 1943 when the description and pictures were forwarded to Dr. John W. Aldrich, Biologist of the Fish and Wildlife Service, who identified the bird as an immature Blue Goose, *Chen caerulescens*. Correspondence with Mr. Arthur Stupka, Park Naturalist, establishes this to be the first record for the Blue Goose in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and as far as I can ascertain one of the few published records of this species from eastern Tennessee.—**RAYMOND J. FLEETWOOD**, Roundoak, Georgia.

## NOTES, HERE AND THERE

The colony of Cliff Swallows, which nested since earliest history on the overhanging Swallow Bluff cliff of the Tennessee River, near Savannah, has become a victim of progress. This cliff, regarded as a menace to navigation upon the coming raising of the Kentucky Dam pool, was blasted into the river during the past summer. It was described and pictured in THE MIGRANT for June, 1941. The birds will probably move to the Ladies' Bluff cliff downstream or to the concrete approach spans of one of the big river bridges, as they have done at Dover and at Chattanooga.

For many years the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service has been engaged in determining the food habits of birds in order to arrive at their economic status. This is done by microscopic examination of the food contents of bird stomachs sent in by collectors, farmers and others. Many publications have been issued to cover various species and groups. Two of these bulletins which are still in print, are Common Birds of the Southeastern United States in Relation to Agriculture (Cons. Bul. 15) and Food of Some Well Known Birds (Farmers Bul. 506). Copies may be secured by addressing the Service at Washington.

It is stated that several oil wells have been "brought in," in the Florida everglades, last habitat of a number of rare and diminishing species of American birds. We can but hope for the best. In the coastal marshlands of Louisiana, in and about the extensive bird sanctuaries there, prospecting outfits are also systematically prospecting for oil.

Mr. George Seth Guion of New Orleans, a T. O. S. member for twelve years, passed away in August. Mr. Guion had for years collected ornithological journals and at the time of his death had gathered the most complete files of these ever to have been gotten together. Most of the many hundreds of bird journals, both great and small, published during the past sixty years, were represented by complete unbroken files.

Mr. Henry Stevenson has recently completed a thesis, in connection with post-graduate work at Cornell University, on the relative abundance of winter birds in the Southern states. The data used are chiefly the annual Christmas census reports published in *Bird-Lore, Audubon Magazine* and THE MIGRANT, as well as other published records and manuscript communications. The summary of occurrences of unusual and "out-of-season" species is of particular interest. We trust that in some way this thesis may find publication.

Miss Nancy Rice, of Nashville, found a nest of the Carolina Wren in her yard in the Belmont section the past summer that was worthy of note. It was built eight feet above the ground in a crotch of a large honey-locust (thorn) tree and founded upon a mass of thorns such as grew thickly all about it. No cat, or snake, or small boy could ever have climbed to that nest and we cheerfully credit the wrens with the gumption to realize the safeness of their choice.

Lieut. V. P. McLaughlin is now stationed at Camp Barkley, Abilene, Texas. He writes that Lark Sparrows were the commonest breeding birds there all summer and that "in early October, hundreds of Scissors-tailed Flycatchers were to be seen, flocking on the wires like swallows—in town, in the country, everywhere. Also, a Vermillion Flycatcher, as conspicuous as a red neon light."

Lieut. Ben B. Coffey and Mrs. Coffey are located at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, where our former editor is connected with the Tactics Department of the Officers Training School. Their former associates at Memphis are unanimous in saying that the Coffeys are muchly missed members.

Messrs. Austin Burdick and Robert Tucker, after a summer's military training in Texas, have been assigned to a period of specialized training at Louisiana State University. They are looking forward to a Christmas furlough at home—Memphis.

From Knoxville in June, came a large photo from Mr. Harry P. Ijams depicting a wedding under the trees on his lawn at "Island Home." The bride was his youngest daughter and, among those grouped on the lawn, we recognized many T. O. S. members who have enjoyed the generous hospitality of the Ijams family upon almost countless spring field days for which "Island Home" is the rendezvous. From various bird notes lettered in on the photo, we learned that Mockingbirds and Cardinals sang all during the ceremony, a pair of Doves flew just overhead, a Carolina Wren protested about Martha's going away, and that various other members of the feathered audience in the trees and shrubs about outdid themselves to participate and to make the occasion a happy one.

Your editor spent a most interesting vacation the first half of October in southern Louisiana and Mississippi. The highlight of the trip was a stay on the Gulf Coast, in Cameron Parish, La., where, in company with Messrs. George Lowery of L. S. U., and Thos. D. Burleigh, he enjoyed the colorful and different birdlife of the seashore and adjacent marsh lands. At Baton Rouge he found the fine L. S. U. collections growing rapidly under Mr. Lowery's efficient curatorship.

THE MIGRANT

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*The simple truth about birds is interesting enough,*
*it is not necessary to go beyond it."*

PLEASE NOTIFY THE SECRETARY OF A CHANGE IN ADDRESS

## EDITOR'S CHAT

The December issue will mark the end of another block of three volumes and there will be appended a species index to cover 1941-1943 inclusive. These three volumes when bound together will make another book on Tennessee birds to be added to your library. Any missing copies may be secured from the editor, as per notice on back cover of this issue.

Our recent symposium on winter roosting habits of birds elicited much favorable comment and some additional notes have come to hand. This is a timely subject and we need much more data, so we solicit contributions for a second symposium, in perhaps our next issue.

The breeding bird census described in the Round Table by Mrs. Torti of Memphis, appeals to us as a very worth while project to inaugurate elsewhere. It is a worthy supplement to such activities as the Christmas census and the Spring and Fall Field Days now carried on by our several chapters. Taken year after year, preferably in the same area, much valuable information can be obtained, particularly on the bird population per acre.

It is not too early to begin planning our Christmas census and let us hope that the war will have subsided during 1944 to the point where we may not be so handicapped again as during the coming census. There must be no gap in our years of census taking and so we are requesting your best one day effort during the last ten days of December. Supplemented notes on unusual species should be appended when lists are sent in. The deadline for receiving lists is January 5.

When localities are referred to in these pages as being a certain distance from a city, contributors should estimate the distance from the courthouse and not from the city limits.

The editor's copy basket is in need of refilling and copy is needed for next issue. This is the chief cause of the lateness of this number. All T. O. S. members are invited to contribute articles on Tennessee birds; do not await a special invitation.

Dues for 1944 are due January 1st and your prompt remittance to treasurer Clebsch will save him much time and save the Society the cost of billing you.

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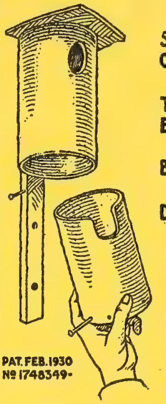

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DEVOTED TO TENNESSEE BIRDS

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# THE MIGRANT

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## SOME WINTER BIRDS OF THE RIVER BOTTOMS

BY ALFRED CLEBSCH

There are some who prefer the shelter of the hillside and the wooded ravine for bird study in winter, but if you can brave the wind, the mud and miles of tramping, try the open fields and river bottomlands. This season again such trips have filled my notebook and certain places stand out for their wealth of material.

Finding a Tree Sparrow in the fields around Marks' Slough as early as November 11 was taken for a good omen and three days later, when we were watching a flock of Horned Larks in the bend of the Cumberland River south of Clarksville, we were thrilled by the rattling call of the Lapland Longspur. How we had searched for these birds since they were here in February, 1940, at the end of the bitter winter! Now a close check showed about 35 of them mingling with about 75 Northern Horned Larks. But a week later, on November 20, only one Longspur could be positively identified, while the flock of Larks was still intact. Since then it, too, has dwindled steadily.

The same dwindling occurred in a flock of Pipits we discovered in this vicinity on October 30. At that time it consisted of 75 to 100 birds; within sixty days it was reduced to 15 according to counts made on several occasions. These Pipits showed a preference for rolling alfalfa fields next to the bottoms, while another group of 10 at the Peterson farm on West Fork Creek on November 21 was in freshly plowed upland. In both places they associated with Killdeer and Horned Larks. The wariness of the Killdeer usually forestalled a close approach.

On November 28, we had 25 or 30 Killdeer in our Pipit field near the Cumberland and noticed among them a bird of at least equal size but of slender build and graceful actions. Dr. Chas. F. Pickering and I are satisfied that this was an Upland Plover although we are aware that the late date is out of line for this species. We had ample light and sufficient opportunity to use our glasses, but could not get close as the bird followed the Killdeers whenever they flew. When the flock settled down it would again feed in their midst.

The bend of the river,—it lies between Cunningham bridge and the old Edmondson Ferry,—is the site that gave us our first Leconte's Sparrow on November 26 of last year. On exactly the same day of this year we found a group (you cannot call it a flock), consisting of about a dozen individuals in what we now look upon as the typical habitat of this species here: a field in open country covered by a mat of dead grasses, often "old witch" grass and red sprangle top, such field bordered or interspersed by stands of Johnson grass. We find the birds are flushed easily enough, make rather long, though feeble flights, and will not refuse cover in woods or bushes when pressed. They often alight on the stems of Johnson grass and look matters over briefly

FEB 15 '44

before ducking under again. A few times their "thin and creaky" voice was heard. They feed under the carpet of matted grass and after they alight in it will fly up only when you are close upon them. They do not run as rapidly under cover as do Savannah Sparrows, which together with Song and Swamp Sparrows share their habitat. The buffy color of their general appearance can be recognized in flight and helps to distinguish them from the Savannah Sparrows. Another discovery at the same site was a Short-eared Owl we encountered on practically every trip made there from middle October through middle of January, the time of this writing. Twice the bird was flushed out of open patches among Johnson grass, several times he was seen hunting over cornfields and upland meadows.

In search of similar settings we travelled on subsequent trips through bottom lands up and down along the Cumberland. Possibly it was the same Short-eared Owl that was seen at a spot seven miles downstream, but due to another large bend the river makes, only two miles overland. Between Marks' Slough and Lock B we found on January 14 other places that looked right for Leconte's Sparrows and, sure enough, we spotted there about a dozen in all. A few were feeding in a five acre plot of old witch grass and cocklebur, some distance from the river, but most of them were in a field three times that size lying along the river, covered a foot deep by second growth Johnson grass mixed with old witch grass and bordered by a rank growth of Johnson grass on the river bank.

Going through this field to kick up Leconte's Sparrows we came upon a roosting spot of the Short-eared Owl, indicated by flattened grass, one or two pellets and some excreta. Following the straight line of a little ridge on which the stand of grasses was somewhat higher and denser, we found over fifteen such spots, the pellets looking fresher as we proceeded. Later in the day the owl was seen just as he alighted in a tree across the river, from where a Red-tailed Hawk promptly dislodged him to take up his own perch. The distance from the site near town is here too long to conclude that we had the same bird before us.

In the fields around Marks' Slough we found hemp grown this year for the first time. As it is raised for its fibre, there is no interference with man's interests when birds find the seed very palatable and are much attracted to the fields during the fall. Some of the cut plants were left in shocks till winter and finches and sparrows of many sorts had a picnic under them, finding both food and shelter under one roof. A small amount of collecting was done on the trips mentioned and an interesting observation was that while birds taken during October and November showed very little fat, thick layers had been put on by the end of the year. This applied particularly to the sparrows that we can safely look upon as stable winter residents. The weather has been cold at times but not of a kind to put hardships on birds.

But I am drawn back to that bend of the river above town that has held so much in store for us already. We know there are some matters we haven't solved yet. Did the Lapland Longspurs go farther south and will they show up again at the end of winter? What Hawk was it that flew up from the bare ground where arriving we found the remains of a Horned Lark, another time those of a Meadowlark, showing nothing left but tail and wing feathers bitten off clean? And what about the memorandum we made about the large bird that came out of the Johnson grass, was surrounded by Crows and went higher and higher with them till the entire group went out of sight in the far distance? Was that our Short-eared Owl?

Other raptores are of course expected when not only bird life is abundant but also small rodents are unusually plentiful, be this due to a dry season or to corn left in the fields; (a summer drouth had stunted the corn crop in many bottoms and farmers are short of help). On November 14 I picked up by the side of the old Edmondson Ferry road where it enters the lowland, a Red-shouldered Hawk that had been shot and killed by someone else a short while before I came along. The bird was very fat and the contents of its craw proved once more that they are not an enemy of other birds. They consisted of a small snake, a large grasshopper and several salamanders, which it had doubtless captured in the shallow water of a slough.

This winter the bottoms being dry and passable, has been a help in our studies. Should they turn wet and soggy, their fascination will not cease. Soon will be the time to see Snipe and Pintail, and some day a Bald Eagle may heave into sight. They are the best place to find the unexpected.

CLARKSVILLE, TENN., January, 1944.

# NOTES ON FLICKER LIFE HISTORY

BY AMELIA R. LASKEY

On June 10, 1943, a Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*) just off the nest was brought to me, presumably about four weeks old. As it made no effort to fly and its parents could not be located, I decided to try to raise it. It was identified as a male as it had considerable red on its crown and later, it did not molt the "mustache" stripes from the base of the bill. Although I have not been able to find any reference to white-tipped bills on juvenile Flickers, this bird had a white tip, slightly over a millimeter in length, on his upper mandible which became dark within a few days. My bird would not open his beak for a feeding and when offered food, which included tiny ants, would swing his bill into it in such a manner as to scatter it. So he was force-fed a moist mixture of pablum, egg, brewer's yeast and bits of raw beef which he swallowed readily after his beak had been pried open and food poked inside. On the second day, he lapped some liquid food with his tongue, each swallow accompanied by a sort of hiccup. This was such a lengthy process that I did not try that way again. On the sixth day, he suddenly recognized me as his foster parent by giving the chattering begging notes and pecking the food from a little stick with which he had been fed. He ate a bountiful meal and while doing so, kept up the continuous "uh-uh," punctuated with a louder and shrill "ah" as they do when attended by a parent. From his arrival, he had given the loud "pe-ap" call which seemed to be his way of announcing hunger, for it was always given sometime after a feeding. Later, when free flying, he used it to announce his readiness for a meal.

As soon as he took food from me, he was placed in the large flying cage and I fed him through the wire mesh instead of holding him, hoping to keep him wild. He ate the pablum mixture from a dish on the ground but never took any suet from the crevice in his log. He pecked the log and used it to wipe his beak. Flickers in the garden use much suet and apparently feed it to their young.

"Wickie," as I called him, took his first bath on the third day after his arrival. When free (August 26) he was seen taking a lengthy bath in a puddle under the water spray. Dr. Jesse M. Shaver of Nashville in "Bird Notes From a Sick Room" (1939, MIGRANT 10:65-67) says: "Two Flickers visited the yard to feed on ants in the driveway and to drink in the bathing fountain. However, they were never observed to take a bath. Is it possible that Flickers never take baths?" He had stated that June, July, and August were unusually cool that summer (1939) while 1943 when my observations were made, was a record breaking summer for consistently high temperatures. Miss A. R. Sherman, who was a close observer of Flickers for many years at her home in Iowa, found a different reaction to water (1910 *Wilson Bull.* 72-73:135-171). She states: "Flickers, like other members of the Woodpecker family, have little use for water. During many hours, all of which taken together would amount to weeks, I have watched from a blind, a pool of water much frequented by birds for drinking and bathing purposes. Near it stands the dead willow visited daily by Redheaded Woodpeckers and Flickers. There the former have never been seen to drink and the latter on two occasions only. The first time it was the old male who backed down on a fence post to the water and drank while clinging to the post" (p. 165).

"Wickie" was released from the flying cage, when about two months old, July 14. His first drumming had been heard four days previously. Three days after his release, I watched him take a prolonged dust bath in my vegetable garden around 7:30 P.M. (CWT). In a freshly cultivated bed, he squatted, pecked in the pulverized earth and, lowering his head sideways, pushed it along the ground from tip of beak to back of head. First he rubbed the right side of the head, then the left, raising dust in the operation. Simultaneously, the feathers of the body and wings were fluffed and wings extended to receive a thorough dusting. The performance was repeated several times before he moved to another spot and started over again. Miss Sherman mentions dust bathing as a common occurrence just before going to roost. She says: "Four or five of a family disport themselves in a bed of dust with evidently as much enjoyment as a duck finds in water" (1910, 165).

It was indeed surprising how "Wickie" continued to come for food although he foraged in the adjoining thicket and elsewhere about the place. His loud "pe-ap" announced his arrival and if no food was forthcoming immediately, he circled about me as I worked or walked in the garden. If I was indoors, he came to the windows, the porch, or anywhere he heard my voice. My answering "Wickie" to his call elicited the softer "uh-uh" of fledgling Flickers. He was unusually wary of other people and would not answer their calls or come near. There was one exception, a part-time colored maid who had fed him when it was necessary for me to be away from home.

At first, he always flew to a certain tree trunk when he saw me approach with the food dish, then backed down to the level of my hand; later, he would land on the ground, hop up the steps, or to any spot where I sat. Still later, he preferred to come to the house, landing on any window sill near me and wait for a feeding. Then he acquired the habit of coming to the peak of the porch where he could see indoors, fly to the brick wall of the house, back down to the sill of a triple window and hop to the third window where I pushed the screen out for him to come for the food in my hand. His beak was often soiled from digging in the ground and his droppings indicated he fed on hackberries which were green at that season. Once he ejected an undigested hackberry from his mouth as he started to eat from the dish.

There were two young Flickers about his age or slightly older frequenting the garden and which were seen in late July in many of the peculiar performances of their kind that are observed often in the spring—the bobbing, swaying, and calling as they faced each other on limbs, one a little higher with bill pointed downward and the lower one pointing up. On July 23rd, seeing one of the Flickers, "Wickie" flew to a limb near it, began the "wicka" song with swaying head. But the other ignored him and flew, which caused "Wickie" to stop his performance at once.

Had he been with a parent, he probably would have been chastised at this age if still begging to be fed. In the latter half of June, I had seen the mother of the two youngsters strike her young repeatedly on the head with her bill as they begged vociferously from her at the suet. On June 19th the blows were given as they clung to the tree trunk and suet feeder; the following week, the act was observed twice; one time she descended to the ground, where they were squawking, to strike them. On June 28th, although a youngster still followed her, she ignored it; while she was busily wiping her beak on the tree after a lengthy feeding, it pecked suet in a desultory way until she left, when it flew after her.

When following me about the garden, "Wickie" often acted as if about to land on head or shoulders but veered away. If the food dish was in hand, he might land on it. During August he acquired some different tactics. At the end of a feeding, he pecked between my fingers, hopped from the ground to my hand, pecked more, then "walked" up my arm, taking off from there and chattering all the time. At that time he showed dominance over the food, displaying fearlessness in driving off pullets several months old and many times his size. A hand-raised Robin tried several times to get a feeding at the same time as "Wickie." But the latter would lunge at him and if the Robin would not leave, "Wickie" would start toward him as if to attack. The Robin was not intimidated at first but would retaliate by going through fighting motions, spreading wings, opening beak, and hopping at the Flicker. However, "Wickie" disdained to fight the smaller bird but effectually stopped his coming by grabbing the Robin's beak in his and holding it until I separated the two. After several such encounters, the Robin begged for food when the Flicker was absent.

"Wickie" was wary of overhead noises. Many times, as he was hopping to me for a feeding, he paused at the sound of the motors of a passing bomber, turned his head sideways to look into the sky before proceeding with his meal.

Although he dropped two retrices in the flying cage, the molt became noticeable by August 20 about the head, neck, breast, and at the rump. In a few days, the buffy plumage of his back was being replaced by the olive brown feathers of his first winter plumage.

In September his visits were further apart and occasionally he would not appear for a day or two. In mid-September, he liked to drum from the peak of the house and sometimes he seemed to be doing it for my benefit. After a feeding he would fly there, roll out a lengthy tattoo and look at me each time before giving the next roll. He also used the loud "cuh-cuh" call from the roof at this period.

In late September he had lost the last red feather from his crown. His breast, throat and a line from the base of the bill over the eye were of a lovely pinkish buff color and only a few spots of buffy juvenal feathers remained on his sleek back.

His last visit to me for food occurred on the evening of October 3rd when he showed much wariness and hesitancy in approaching me along the window sill. On October 6th he entered a water drip trap and upon removal, was weighed. His weight at 10 A.M. was 139.4 grams; his wing measured 155 mm. This was the first time I had handled him in many weeks except for September 17th when I removed the head of a larval insect from the rim of his eye. He struggled continually and when released, would not answer from the tree trunk. He came to trees near the house on the evening of October 10th, called "pe-ap," answered my call with "uh-uh" but did not come for the food I offered. He was identified by his left-banded tarsus in late October near the house, but he did not answer or come to me. He was now a grown up Flicker who had no desire for baby food.

### SUMMARY

A Flicker was hand-raised from June 10 when just off nest. He was force-fed until June 16, when he started taking food from my hand, giving typical begging calls. He was released July 14. His first bath was taken June 13 and a lengthy one under the spray August 26; a dust bath on the evening of July 17. The adult "pe-ap" call was used from the first day as a food call. First drumming occurred July 10; "wicka" call given July 23 with swaying head, facing another Flicker in a tree. In August, he displayed dominance at the food. In mid-September he drummed from roof of house, also sang "cuh-cuh" song rapidly. By late September, his fall plumage was apparently complete except a few feathers on his back. October 6, when trapped, he weighed 139.4 grams; his wing measured 155 mm. Until October 10, he came to the house for food, using the baby food chatter, although he had been eating hackberries and digging in the ground since July. He was identified later but showed no interest in me or the food offered.

GRAYBAR LANE, NASHVILLE 4, TENN.

## PHOEBE TUNNEL

BY BEN B. COFFEY, JR.

All students of bird life can usually enjoy the most routine trips afield. But what trips are really routine? Perhaps around the corner is the chance of seeing a new bird or if the life list is a comprehensive one, there is the possibility of adding another record of a rare species. The more remote the chance the greater the thrill on the occasion. And always there is the return of old favorites with the renewal of the seasons. In the South we have an always changing panorama and are even spared bleakness and paucity of bird life in the winter. We get quite a thrill out of seeing a rare avian visitor in our own haunts or an unfamiliar, and, to us, exotic species, in distant parts. These memories are carried with us long.

One of the writer's biggest thrills came on the unexpected finding of the nest of a Phoebe, generally a common and familiar species, with its place in story and legend. In the Mid-South it is a rare winter resident, uncommon transient, and is not present in summer from about Memphis southward. The only Mississippi nesting record until recently was that of Andrew A. Allison in the spring of 1904, in Tishomingo County. Most of that state does not offer such possibilities of typical nesting situations as his northeast corner, bordering Tennessee on the north and Alabama on the east. The low hills are in a large part underlaid by limestones and a few overhanging ledges of this material offered about the only natural nesting sites in the State. We made several trips in the spring, down Bear Creek, Yellow Creek, and others, but saw no Phoebes. Since about 1938, Pickwick Lake has backed its waters up these narrow valleys and the ledges are inundated. Over a wider area, new concrete highway bridges now offer the Phoebe perhaps better sites.

Andrew A. Allison was a diligent and outstanding field ornithologist and, alone or in collaboration with others, published in *The Auk* (1906-07) many notes from South Mississippi and Louisiana. Inasmuch as the writer, in these more recent years, was attracted to Northeast Mississippi to note what differences existed, so also perhaps was Allison moved to visit Tishomingo County for the contrast it might offer to the South Mississippi areas he regularly studied. So in the spring of 1904 he journeyed thence and made his headquarters at a farmhouse about six miles northeast of Iuka. The list of birds observed from April 17 to May 17, 1904, was published in *The Auk* for January, 1907. His account of his stay also includes an interesting account of the topography, a detailed description of the flora, and incidental observation of mammals and reptiles.

We would expect to hear much more from this enthusiastic and painstaking naturalist, but do not. The explanation is found in "Plants of Mississippi" by E. N. Lowe (Bulletin No. 17, Mississippi State Geological Survey, February, 1921). In the preface we find ". . . the gift [to the Geological Survey] of about 450 species from Mr. Andrew Allison, an excellent field botanist who collected mainly in two counties—Tishomingo and Hancock. Unfortunately for botanical science, Mr. Allison left the state several years ago to take up missionary work in China. On his return, on vacation, in 1918, Mr. Allison very kindly presented to the Geological Survey Herbarium his beautiful collection."

Of the Phoebe during his stay, Mr. Allison writes: "I thought I heard one of these birds on April 18, and later on I discovered it to be a rare breeder. In the tunnel I have before referred to, cut in the rotten limestone of a steep hillside, I found a nest perched on a narrow ledge about six feet up. It was composed externally of green moss, and contained four young a few days old; they were silent, unemotional little creatures, and made no demonstration when I took the nest down to see them more closely, or when I replaced it. The mother waited outside the tunnel, calling frequently. It struck me as singularly appropriate that the first rocky cave I had entered in Mississippi should hold a Phoebe's nest; for in less typical situations we have never noted the bird except as a winter resident. This was on April 27; the next day I found an old nest probably of the same pair, since I saw no others—in an abandoned cabin near the cave."

The tunnel referred to is mentioned previously in his description of the topography. "In a hillside rising immediately beyond a most precipitous descent, is the main opening to a 'silica' mine (so-called by the natives) which was abandoned because of the fatality among laborers working up the material—though the miners themselves were not affected. The walls of the cave are of an amorphous, softish chalky material, now damp and covered in many places with slime and moss. The whole hill appears to be of this material, and so do many others near by. The main tunnel is a hundred yards long."

On one or two spring trips when one of our special objectives was a Phoebe nesting record, the writer inquired at Iuka concerning this "silica mine" but no one knew of it. On July 4, 1938, just after examining a used Phoebe nest of the season at Tishomingo State Park (THE MIGRANT, 1939, pp. 52-53), I drove back to Iuka and decided the best chance was to drive out the Eastport road where the mine should have been and inquire in the vicinity. At our first stop, an elderly lady stated that her husband had died from working in the mine, and directed us down the road to the farm of Mr. Walter Lee Goodman. We found the latter at home and he cordially volunteered to guide us to the old mine. When we explained our interest in seeing the place, Mr. Goodman informed us that Andrew Allison had spent his month at that residence while he carried on his field work in that general vicinity.

Mr. Goodman, Rover Scouts Bob Shaffer and Bobby Hunt, and myself, hiked east into the hills about a mile, leaving trails behind. Going down one particular ravine our guide brought us to an opening in the side of a hill. This hole was just large enough to allow entrance with only a slight stoop. We had hoped to see Phoebes remaining in the vicinity—the date, July 4, was thought late for nesting. Not seeing any we ducked into the tunnel to look for possible old nests. After our eyes became accustomed to the partial darkness we turned the flashlight beam on the walls. At one spot, about ten feet inside the mine, we found the remains and other indications of several nests of past seasons. Just as we were turning away, the beam picked up a complete nest, with four young about a week old! After everyone had a good look we continued our examination of the surroundings and made a quick exploration of the several short tunnels comprising the mine.

On emerging into the daylight we heard, then saw one of the parents in a nearby tree. Later the second adult appeared and to ease the anxiety of the pair, we moved away from the entrance. But they had a special significance to me and this late nest inside a hillside tunnel was a real thrill. To visit this spot, 34 years after another bird lover had visited it, and to find the same species still nesting there was more than a coincidence. Perhaps it was indicative of the universality of bird study and bird students over time and space.

Coincidentally, although of interest only to the writer, Allison found his nestful of Phoebes on April 27, 1904, one day before the birth of the writer at Nashville. Until 1902, Iuka was the home of the writer's mother, but most visits there have been since 1933 and with an ornithological objective.

We returned to the tunnel May 19, 1940, but found only indications of past nests. Needless to say we look forward to re-visiting this spot when peaceful interests are again in order.

EPILOGUE: In the *Memphis Press-Scimitar* of October 14, 1943, a news item listed for the first time the names of a large group of American citizens being repatriated from Japanese dominated areas. These included businessmen, missionaries, and diplomats. In the list we noted:

Andrew A. Allison________________Ellisville, Miss.
Ella W. Allison____________________Ellisville, Miss.

FT. SILL, OKLA., December 31, 1943.

# ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUS

By Our Members

The Migrant presents below, its 15th annual census of the mid-winter birds of Tennessee. An additional list is given for an area in Mississippi, at Oxford, which is 45 miles south of the Tennessee line. Taken at the time of the winter solstice—when our days are shortest—it represents the time of greatest scarcity in birdlife, yet the usual varied and abundant food supply enabled our members to record 99 species within the State. (The Mississippi list increases the total to 101.) The Tennessee total compares with 108 last year, and 94, 93 and 96, prior to that. The number of observers making the 10 lists dropped from 107 in 1942 to 73 in 1943, and the coverage was less also, due to wartime absences and drastic gas rationing. The Short-billed Marsh Wren appears on the Tennessee list for the first time. Only species are listed although several races (sub-species) of a number of these are known to be present. Thus, in the high Smokies, Black-capped as well as Carolina Chickadees and also Carolina Juncos were identified with certainty; both Bronzed and Purple Grackles were doubtless listed, etc., etc. A moderate, "open" winter through December, caused Robins and Grackles to remain in greater than usual numbers.

| | Gt. Smokies Dec. 19 | Greeneville Dec. 20 | Nashville Dec. 26 | Clarksville Dec. 19 | Clarksville Dec. 26 | Clarksville Jan. 1 | Henderson Jan. 3 and 4 | Memphis Dec. 19 | Memphis Dec. 25 | Oxford, Miss. Dec. 31 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Number of Species | 47 | 39 | 70 | 45 | 51 | 46 | 52 | 63 | 63 | 65 |
| Number of Individuals | 1,736 | 743 | 20,815 | 686 | 848 | 485 | 1,387 | 19,220 | 839 | 1,871 |
| Number of Observers | 24 | 1 | 16 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 20 | 1 | 1 |
| Pied-billed Grebe | --- | --- | 1 | --- | --- | --- | 3 | --- | --- | --- |
| Double-crested Cormorant | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | 300 | 2 | --- |
| Great Blue Heron | --- | --- | 1 | --- | 1 | --- | 1 | --- | --- | 6 |
| Canada Goose | --- | --- | --- | 14 | --- | --- | --- | 35 | --- | --- |
| Lesser Snow Goose | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | 6 | --- | --- |
| Blue Goose | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | 19 | --- | --- |
| Common Mallard | --- | --- | 80 | 2 | 3 | 10 | 6 | 75 | --- | 100 |
| Black Duck | --- | --- | 9 | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | 20 |
| Gadwall | --- | --- | 4 | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Pintail | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | 10 | --- | 200 |
| Green-winged Teal | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | 1 | --- | --- | --- |
| Wood Duck | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | 1 |
| Redhead | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | 5 | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Ring-necked Duck | --- | --- | 63 | --- | 30 | 50 | 21 | --- | --- | 30 |
| Canvasback | --- | --- | 6 | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Lesser Scaup | --- | --- | 30 | --- | --- | --- | --- | 20 | 8 | 5 |
| Bufflehead | --- | --- | 5 | --- | --- | --- | --- | 1 | --- | --- |
| Old Squaw | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | 1 | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Ruddy Duck | --- | --- | 3 | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Hooded Merganser | --- | --- | 2 | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Amer. Merganser | --- | --- | 4 | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Turkey Vulture | 2 | 11 | --- | 4 | --- | --- | 18 | 4 | 2 | 15 |
| Black Vulture | --- | 14 | --- | 2 | --- | --- | 11 | 13 | --- | 1 |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk | 1 | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | 1 | --- |
| Cooper's Hawk | --- | --- | 3 | 1 | --- | --- | 1 | 1 | 2 | --- |
| Red-tailed Hawk | --- | --- | 7 | 1 | 3 | 1 | --- | 10 | 5 | --- |
| Red-shouldered Hawk | --- | --- | 2 | 1 | --- | --- | 6 | 8 | 1 | 2 |
| Marsh Hawk | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 3 | --- | 2 | 6 | 3 | 1 |
| Sparrow Hawk | 2 | 2 | 20 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 17 | 3 | --- |
| Ruffed Grouse | 3 | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Bob-white | 29 | 15 | 20 | --- | 16 | 1 | 2 | 11 | 15 | 1 |

| | Gt. Smokies Dec. 19 | Greeneville Dec. 20 | Nashville Dec. 26 | Clarksville Dec. 19 | Clarksville Dec. 26 | Clarksville Jan. 1 | Henderson Jan. 3 and 4 | Memphis Dec. 19 | Memphis Dec. 25 | Oxford, Miss. Dec. 31 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Wild Turkey | 1 | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Coot | --- | --- | 40 | --- | --- | --- | --- | 6 | --- | --- |
| Kildeer | --- | 1 | 80 | 8 | 2 | --- | --- | 22 | 4 | 7 |
| Wilson's Snipe | --- | --- | 12 | --- | 1 | 2 | --- | --- | --- | 3 |
| Herring Gull | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | 3 | --- |
| Ring-billed Gull | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | 125 | 4 | --- |
| Mourning Dove | 5 | 137 | 39 | 38 | 32 | --- | 18 | 27 | 8 | 80 |
| Barn Owl | --- | 1 | 2 | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Screech Owl | --- | --- | 1 | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Great Horned Owl | --- | --- | 2 | --- | --- | --- | 1 | --- | --- | 1 |
| Barred Owl | --- | --- | 1 | 1 | --- | --- | --- | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| Short-eared Owl | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | 1 | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Belted Kingfisher | 6 | --- | 5 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | --- |
| Flicker | --- | 3 | 66 | 13 | 12 | 6 | 19 | 78 | 10 | 20 |
| Pileated Woodpecker | 6 | 1 | 15 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 3 | --- | 3 | 1 |
| Red-bellied Woodpecker | --- | 6 | 41 | 2 | 6 | 2 | 16 | 28 | 8 | 16 |
| Red-headed Woodpecker | --- | --- | 1 | --- | 2 | 1 | --- | 5 | 2 | 2 |
| Yellow-bellied Sapsucker | 1 | --- | 30 | --- | 4 | 1 | 3 | 14 | 5 | 4 |
| Hairy Woodpecker | 6 | --- | 10 | 1 | --- | 1 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| Downy Woodpecker | 26 | 7 | 35 | 12 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 26 | 3 | 7 |
| Northern Raven | 5 | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Phoebe | 1 | --- | --- | --- | --- | 1 | 1 | --- | --- | 2 |
| Blue Jay | 5 | 15 | 53 | 5 | 10 | 10 | 41 | 266 | 14 | 32 |
| Horned Lark | --- | 16 | 225 | 2 | 60 | 25 | --- | --- | --- | 7 |
| Crow | 157 | 186 | 138 | 15 | 37 | 48 | 63 | 183 | 6 | 21 |
| Chickadee | 144 | 12 | 124 | 13 | 10 | 3 | 18 | 111 | 8 | 14 |
| Tufted Titmouse | 23 | 16 | 71 | 10 | 18 | 8 | 30 | 126 | 12 | 21 |
| White-breasted Nuthatch | 1 | 4 | 1 | --- | 7 | 1 | 2 | --- | 3 | 1 |
| Red-breasted Nuthatch | 3 | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | 2 |
| Brown Creeper | 5 | --- | 14 | --- | --- | --- | --- | 5 | 5 | 1 |
| Winter Wren | 13 | --- | 2 | 1 | --- | 3 | --- | 4 | 3 | 7 |
| Bewick's Wren | 1 | 1 | 3 | --- | 2 | --- | --- | --- | 2 | 3 |
| Carolina Wren | 18 | 22 | 52 | 13 | 12 | 8 | 12 | 92 | 6 | 8 |
| Short-billed Marsh Wren | --- | --- | --- | --- | 2 | 1 | --- | --- | --- | 1 |
| Mockingbird | 6 | 10 | 85 | 5 | 14 | 5 | 10 | 113 | 7 | 11 |
| Brown Thrasher | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | 5 | 8 | 4 | 2 |
| Robin | 9 | --- | 407 | 74 | 7 | 8 | 38 | 2,167 | 30 | 4 |
| Hermit Thrush | 6 | --- | 8 | --- | 2 | --- | 7 | 20 | 5 | 3 |
| Bluebird | 22 | --- | 140 | 15 | 8 | 6 | 18 | 20 | 8 | 21 |
| Golden-crown Kinglet | 76 | 5 | 7 | --- | 2 | --- | --- | 76 | 6 | 15 |
| Ruby-crown Kinglet | 1 | 1 | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | 6 | 2 | 2 |
| American Pipet | --- | --- | --- | --- | 15 | 15 | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Cedar Waxwing | --- | --- | 13 | 25 | 6 | --- | --- | 34 | 25 | 12 |
| Migrant Shrike | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | --- | --- | 2 | 24 | 4 | 7 |
| Starling | 37 | 44 | 17,500 | 107 | 150 | 100 | 12 | 960 | 100 | 50 |
| Myrtle Warbler | --- | 6 | 8 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 231 | 8 | 20 |
| Pine Warbler | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | 3 |
| Palm Warbler | --- | --- | 1 | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| English Sparrow | 121 | 35 | 135 | 8 | 26 | 20 | 104 | 170 | 20 | 40 |
| Meadowlark | 12 | 36 | 52 | 47 | 47 | 30 | 11 | 330 | 50 | 82 |
| Redwing Blackbird | --- | 1 | --- | 13 | 13 | --- | 40 | 4 | 25 | 500 |
| Rusty Blackbird | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | 217 | --- | 3 | 35 |
| Bronzed Grackle | --- | --- | 100 | --- | --- | --- | 200 | 1,346 | 75 | 10 |
| Cowbird | --- | 9 | 2 | --- | --- | --- | 1 | --- | 6 | --- |
| Blackbirds (unidentified) | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | 10,000 | --- | --- |
| Cardinal | 123 | 19 | 214 | 45 | 58 | 12 | 49 | 327 | 17 | 33 |
| Purple Finch | 3 | 1 | 5 | --- | --- | --- | --- | 11 | 11 | 14 |
| Pine Siskin | 90 | --- | 2 | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Goldfinch | 74 | 17 | 49 | 10 | 9 | 6 | 23 | 51 | 8 | 44 |
| Red-eyed Towhee | 5 | 2 | 82 | 24 | 6 | 3 | 26 | 26 | 9 | 16 |
| Savannah Sparrow | --- | --- | --- | --- | 2 | 1 | --- | 8 | 18 | 19 |
| Leconte's Sparrow | --- | --- | --- | --- | 5 | 5 | --- | --- | 6 | --- |
| Vesper Sparrow | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | 5 | --- |
| Junco, Slate-col. | 314 | 45 | 433 | 54 | 90 | 40 | 93 | 610 | 65 | 67 |
| Tree Sparrow | --- | --- | --- | --- | 10 | 3 | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Field Sparrow | 163 | 14 | 68 | 28 | 4 | 1 | 44 | 154 | 75 | 82 |
| White-crown Sparrow | --- | 6 | 33 | 4 | 17 | 2 | --- | 16 | 14 | --- |
| White-throat Sparrow | 72 | 8 | 150 | 24 | 31 | 8 | 75 | 666 | 50 | 70 |
| Fox Sparrow | --- | --- | 1 | 9 | 3 | --- | 4 | 77 | 4 | 11 |
| Swamp Sparrow | 4 | --- | 3 | 14 | 20 | 13 | 28 | 13 | 8 | 15 |
| Song Sparrow | 130 | 12 | 171 | 13 | 14 | 23 | 63 | 88 | 20 | 40 |

## NOTES ON THE CENSUS

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS PARK: Seen on other dates than census, were Chipping Sparrow on Dec. 16, and Great Horned Owl on Dec. 20, both near Gatlinburg.——GREENEVILLE: The Purple Finch was with a flock of Goldfinches. Seen on other dates than the census, were Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 1, on Dec. 21, and Screech Owl 1, on Dec. 22.——NASHVILLE: Nearly all of the water birds were found on the 75-acre Radnor Lake which is situated in the hills. The Barn Owls were in the hollow nesting tree on Woodmont Blvd., but were not breeding. The 2 Pine Siskins were in a Goldfinch flock. Of Grackles, about 4,000 were seen in river bottoms a week before, i.e., Dec. 19. Seen on other dates than on census were Black Vulture 2 and Amer. Herring Gull 1, both on Dec. 19. Most conspicuous omissions from the list were Black and Turkey Vultures, Phoebe, Savannah Sparrow and Rusty Blackbird.——CLARKSVILLE: Bottomlands and sloughs being unusually dry explains the absence of Rusty Blackbirds and the small number of ducks along the Cumberland. The Migrant Shrike on the way to Marks' Slough was quite unexpected as none had ever been seen there before; it was perched atop a snag close to Coke's Creek, a place always teeming with small birds. The Canada Geese were seen also by other observers here, close to our date. The female Old Squaw Duck, seen with Scaups, etc., on Dunbar Cave Lake Jan. 1, was our first Montgomery County record. Herring Gulls were seen on the river just before and just after Dec. 19, while on Dec. 7, 17 of them were counted there. The Leconte's Sparrow, Amer. Pipits and Short-billed Marsh Wrens are discussed elsewhere in this issue.——MEMPHIS: On Dec. 19, a large hawk believed to be an Amer. Rough-legged, was observed and reported by Brother I. Vincent; however, visibility was not sufficient to warrant including it with the others. On the list of Dec. 25, see notes in Round Table section, by Burdick, on Vesper and Leconte's Sparrows.——OXFORD, MISS.: The Marsh Wren had been present since November; heard singing on day of the census. Cormorants, Pied-billed Grebe and Ring-billed Gulls, were known to be present on the extensive Sardis Reservoir but could not be certainly identified with glasses available. See Round Table for other notes.

## LOCALITIES, WEATHER, AND PERSONNEL

GREAT SMOKY MTNS. NAT. PARK, TENN.: Dec. 19, 1943. Same area as in past 6 years; circle of 7½ miles radius centering on Bull Head of Mt. Leconte; including a section of the Tenn.-N. Carolina divide from Clingman's Dome to The Sawteeth; towns of Gatlinburg and Pigeon Forge. Spruce-fir forests 25%, stream courses 20%, deciduous forests 15%, abandoned fields 15%, open farm land 10%, towns and suburbs 10% and pine forests 5%. Weather fair, temp. 15 to 55 F.; wind variable, 1 to 12 m.p.h.; ground bare; streams frozen over in mountains, open in lowlands. Altitude range 1,200 to 6,300 feet. Hours afield, 50; total miles (on foot) 65. Seven parties included the following 24 observers: Claire Barrett, James Baumgartner, Jr., Mary Ruth Chiles, Mr. and Mrs. Howard W. Goodhue, Mr. and Mrs. Albert E. Hyder, Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Isenberg, Elizabeth Johnson, James Johnson, Robert Johnson, W. M. Johnson, Emerson Kemsies, Dr. Henry Meyer, Robert Monroe, Elise Morrell, Capt. and Mrs. P. E. O'Meara, W. F. Pearson, Chester M. Shaffer, Arthur Stupka, Dr. Dorothy E. Williams, Paul Yambert.——GREENEVILLE: Dec. 20. Area along Roaring Fork and Lick Creek, Bays Mountain. Wooded 65%, pasture land 35%. Weather fair; temp. 32-40;

wind W., 8-12 m.p.h. Snow patches on ground; creeks frozen in places. Hours 8. Miles 6. One observer, Ruth Reed Nevius.——NASHVILLE: Dec. 26. Environs of city, including Overton Hills Forest, Radnor Lake, Glendale, Hobbs to Tyne Roads, both Warner Parks, Bellemeade, Westmeade, Hillwood, and Cumberland River bottoms to 3 miles above Shelby Park. Open farm lands 25%, town suburbs 6%, wooded pastures 24%, wooded hills 20%, river bank 12%, lake and its shore 12% of the 49 party hours. Overcast and threatening; visibility fair; temp. 41 to 44; no wind; ground bare and very wet. Birds active following cold wave. Total party hours 49. Miles, 36 on foot and 15 in cars. Seven parties consisting of these 16 observers: B. H. Abernathy, Katherine Anderson, Paul Bryant, Cadet Harold Ferris, Spencer Ferris, A. F. Ganier, Robert Hawkins, Conrad Jamison, Mrs. Amelia Laskey, D. Lehrman, G. R. Mayfield, Peter Mattli, Lieut. H. C. Monk, William Simpson, Cadet Palmer Skaar, and W. R. Spofford.——CLARKSVILLE: Dec. 19; 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. City limits to Marks' Slough in Cumberland River bottoms; returning via golf links, Hiett's gardens, Robin's swamp, McAdoo Creek, etc. Wind slight. Clear in a.m., cloudy in p.m. Three observers together, Dr. R. E. Shanks, Edward and Alfred Clebsch, Sr.——CLARKSVILLE: Dec. 27; 8:30 to 12 and 1:30 to 4:30. Dunbar's Cave and Lake and adjacent marsh, also Bell farm near St. Bethlehem, in a.m. In p.m. worked Cumberland River bottoms to Edmondson ferry. Foggy and overcast; temp. around 37. Three observers, C. F. Pickering, Edward and Alfred Clebsch, Sr.——CLARKSVILLE: Jan. 1, 1944; 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Same route as on Dec. 27, omitting Bell farm. Clear in a.m., cloudy in p.m. Temp. 32-42. Three observers together, A. F. Ganier, Edward and Alfred Clebsch, Sr.——HENDERSON: Jan. 3 (1:15 p.m. to 6 p.m.) and Jan. 4 (8 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.). Henderson to Chickasaw Park, Lakes Placid and LaJoie, Forked Deer river bottoms to Talley's store and adjoining fields. Weather mostly cloudy; temp. 38-46. Thirty-nine miles by car and 6 on foot. One observer, Robert L. Witt (Freed-Hardeman College).——MEMPHIS: Dec. 19. Same area as covered in 1942 and consisting of city suburbs 10%, open pasture and farm lands 15%, deciduous woodlots mostly in bottom lands 65% and rivers 10%. Clear to slightly overcast; temp. 25 to 56; little or no wind. Ground and small streams frozen in a.m. Hours, 36 on foot, 7 in car, 12 in boat. Miles, 53 on foot, 45 in cars, and 12 in boat. Seven parties consisting of these 20 observers: Pat Bohan, Mrs. Irene Daniels, Mary Davant, Newton Hanson, Pauline James, Luther Keaton, Lawrence Kent, Dr. Louis Leroy, Mary Mason, Jennie May, Caroline May, Dr. C. E. Moore, Mr. and Mrs. Merrill Schwartz, Merrill Schwartz, Jr., Alice Smith, Charles Stellmaker, Mrs. M. L. Torti, Maurice Torti and Brother I. Vincent.——MEMPHIS: Dec. 25; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. City waterfront (Mississippi River) eastward to Terry's Crest on Park Avenue. 20 miles by car and 5 on foot. Light rain all day; strong wind; temp. 31-35 degrees. One observer, Austin W. Burdick (La. State Univ.).——OXFORD, MISS.: Dec. 31; 6:40 to 11:30 a.m.; 12:10 to 6:15 p.m. Territory just east of town in a.m.; in p.m. at Sardis reservoir west of town. Total hours 11; miles afoot 13; miles by bicycle 12. Weather clear, temp. 30-50 degrees. One observer, Henry Stevenson (Univ. of Mississippi).

# THE ROUND TABLE

NOTES FROM THE MEMPHIS REGION: The writer was again fortunate enough to spend a few days leave in the Memphis area. I was afield there for a week beginning December 4, and also on Dec. 24 and 25. Though very little territory was actually covered, several interesting birds were recorded. ——On Dec. 4, a large flock of Vesper Sparows was found in a burned-over field and they were seen daily thereafter until I left on Dec. 11. They were found to be still present on Dec. 24 and 25.——Leconte's Sparrows were unusually common with as high as 14 being flushed from one small plot of broom-sedge, on Dec. 7. On Dec. 25, I was able to find 6 for my census list. ——Several Brewer's Blackbirds were seen on Dec. 11 amongst a large flock of Grackles and Redwings. Since I understand no specimen of this western species has as yet been taken in Tennessee, I endeavored to collect one but was unsuccessful.——A small flock of Horned Larks was found on Dec. 4.—— A Western Meadowlark, taken on Dec. 11, and which I have mentioned in another note, constitutes the first Tennessee record.—AUSTIN W. BURDICK, Box 7126, La. State Univ., Baton Rouge, La.

A WESTERN MEADOWLARK IN TENNESSEE: My first acquaintance with the Western Meadowlark out of its normal range, occurred 30 miles south of Memphis near Lula, Miss., on Dec. 29, 1940 (THE MIGRANT, 1941, p. 16). This considerably encouraged my faint hopes that maybe I would be able to add this species to the Tennessee list if more careful attention were given to the large wintering flocks of Meadowlarks about Memphis. Since that time, I have had many opportunities to study the western bird in its normal range and to learn the characters which so readily distinguish it from the eastern species. A specimen which I took at Baton Rouge, La., still further whetted my desire to find one of the birds in Tennessee.

On Dec. 8, 1943, near Germantown, Tenn. (15 miles east of Memphis), I heard a distinctive clucking note which I was sure could be made only by a Western Meadowlark. As there were about fifty Meadowlarks in the immediate vicinity, I could not tell which of them had given the note. Finally, one flew to a small tree and again I heard the note. By no means certain that this was the one I had heard, I decided to collect it nevertheless. My luck failed me, for what I secured proved to be an Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*). Following the flock further, I did not hear the western bird again. Three days later, however, on Dec. 11, I again heard the characteristic "clucking" in the same field. After some stalking, I located the pale-plumaged bird for which I had been looking and succeeded in collecting it. It proved to be a Western Meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*) as I had expected; a male and in excellent plumage. The specimen has been deposited in the L. S. U. Museum of Zoology.—AUSTIN W. BURDICK, Box 7126, La. State Univ., Baton Rouge, La.

THICK-BILLED REDWING AT REELFOOT LAKE: Among a lot of bird skins sent to Dr. Alex Wetmore for subspecific determination, was one which he has identified as the Thick-billed Redwing (*Agelaius phoeniceus fortis*). This race was not included in my checklist of the birds of Tennessee (1933) for the reason that its far northwestern breeding range would apparently make it an unlikely winter visitant. The specimen, a male, was collected by me on November 15, 1915, from a flock enroute to their roost at dusk. Among the Tennessee specimens collected in 1937 by the U. S. National Museum, are two which were identified by Dr. Wetmore as the Giant Redwing (*A. p. arctolegus*), the breeding race of the Dakota region. One was taken near Memphis on April 17 and the other near Reelfoot Lake on Oct. 20; both were females. The breeding form throughout the State is the Eastern Redwing (*A. p. phoeniceus*).—ALBERT F. GANIER, Nashville, Tenn.

WINTER MOVEMENTS OF STARLINGS: The June, 1943, issue of *Inland Bird-banding News* gives two recoveries of Starlings of more than local interest. These birds were banded at Columbus, Ohio, by Wm. E. Schantz on Dec. 31, 1939. Ten days later, one of them was shot at Franklin, Tenn., and 20 days later (Jan. 20) another was taken at Mt. Juliet, Tenn., which is 30 miles east. These recoveries prove that Starling migration is not confined to the regular migration season. Another interesting return was that of a Grackle banded by Mr. Schantz on March 1, 1937, and which was recovered at Lobelville on August 14, the same year.—BEN B. COFFEY, Fort Sill, Okla.

A CATBIRD IN MID-WINTER: Late in the afternoon of January 16, 1943, Vincent P. McLaughlin, Jr., who had come in from Camp Campbell, accompanied me on a short stroll under Porter's Bluff on Red River. The weather was balmy and brilliant cloud formations graced the sky; one of those summer days in winter. Tree Sparrows' merry tinkling was heard as they clung to the stalks of sedge grass and Winter Wrens acted like busy little gnomes among moss, roots and rocks. At twilight we were about to leave when the energetic scolding of a Catbird stopped us. It came from a clump of elder,—no berries there now, Catbird!—about a hundred yards off and we went there carefully so we could support by a sight record what our ears had already told us for certain. Enough light was left and we saw the bird plainly as he hopped through the branches still scolding. Then he slipped down under the thick cover of fall asters, now brown and sere. From his size, vigor and sleek plumage—the under tail coverts reached well back and the tail was not a bit frazzled,—we judged this to be a normal and healthy individual. During the next ten days I looked for him a number of times, but although we had more mild days, I did not see him again. In the fall Catbirds like this place and stay on there till the very last, gorging themselves on pokeberries, but they are very shy and quiet. October 31 is the latest I have seen them. Through the Atlantic states, up north as far as Massachusetts, winter records of the Catbird are not rare, but as far as I can learn, this is the first one published for this section.—ALFRED CLEBSCH, Clarksville, Tenn.

SHORT-BILLED MARSH WRENS WINTERING: During our winter census on December 27 I covered the marsh that lies below Dunbar Cave Lake and in front of Idaho Springs Hotel. A mouse-like flitting in a thin stand of cattail at the edge of the marsh brought me to a halt and soon I was being inspected by a Short-billed Marsh Wren, an attention I returned with interest. The bird was familiar to me from an invasion we had at this very site in the late summer of 1936 (see THE MIGRANT, Sept. 1936, p. 70). They were recorded then as late as November 4 and I had an uncertain December record for that year. My bird came within ten feet of me and could be observed in every detail for fully two minutes. A second individual was found a little further on and I could call Dr. Pickering and my son, Eddy, to share the view. This bird, too, came towards us traveling through the tops of the matted dead grasses and was once within five feet of Eddy. The tell-tale "pebbly" chink was heard only once. When the bird had seen enough of us, he moved on leisurely, mostly hopping or flitting, only occasionally trusting himself to his weak wings. He seemed to like the lower part of willow bushes where he stopped to do some feeding.

The news of our find brought Mr. Ganier to Clarksville on January 1. The swamp gave frozen footing and we worked it thoroughly. While frost was on the dead vegetation, nothing stirred, but later we heard the call of our bird in the place he favored and the maneuver of approach, inspection and retreat was gone through as scheduled. We concluded that at the best but very few individuals were present. Unfortunately there is no other swamp like this one in easy reach for us. On January 12, we visited a strip of cattail bordering a small over-cup oak swamp across the Cumberland from New Providence, where we had seen a Short-billed Marsh Wren on October 21, but he had evidently left there before winter. Other marshes in Middle Tennessee should be searched for this species (*cistothorus stellaris*) for possible additional winter records.—ALFRED CLEBSCH, Clarksville, Tenn.

HARLAN'S VS. RED-TAILED HAWKS: On November 28 last, a "black" Red-tailed Hawk passed over my house at such a low altitude that all ventral markings were carefully observed. Following the descriptions given by Wood (*Wilson Bulletin*, 1942, 44:78), it was found that this bird possessed the characters of melanistic Western Red-tail and not those of the Harlan's Red-tail. This statement does not commit the writer, however, to any particular belief about the status of these two birds. It might be of interest to state that the only Tennessee specimen I have examined (from Columbia), is of this melanistic race and not the Harlan's, if one uses the criteria given by Mr. Wood. Several recent references to the Harlan's being observed about Memphis might, had closer inspection been possible, have been referred to the often nearly black phase of the Western Red-tail instead.—WALTER R. SPOFFORD, Nashville, Tenn.

A BARRED OWL VISITS TOWN: The owl that visits the block in Corinth where I live, in a thickly settled area three blocks from the business district, has made several appearances in the past few weeks. Judging from its call notes, and the reputation Barred Owls have of prowling about towns, it could hardly be other than this species. Our visitor has three distinct numbers in his repertoire of vocal antics. First, it has a distinct growl, somewhat similar to that of a small wild animal; second, it screams like a frightened child; and finally, what for lack of a better name might be called its hoot. Sometimes one of these sounds will follow the others; again, only one of them will be given. It is heard in other parts of town, too, so evidently it ranges over a considerable area and manages to find day-time safety and sleeping quarters in some unsuspected hollow tree.

In mid-December, I broke off several branches of hedge privet heavily loaded with the small dark blue berries, from a hedge at my daughter's place some distance from my own, and fastened them among shrubbery in my own yard to see what they would attract. Next morning, bright and early, a White-throated Sparrow was found feasting on them and as best I could see was swallowing seed and all. Purple Finches, which are also fond of these privet berries, are able to split out the seed and they swallow only the meaty parts.—BENJ. R. WARRINER, Corinth, Miss.

WHISTLING SWAN NEAR KNOXVILLE: During the third week in November, 1943, a bird of this species was shot and wounded on Norris Lake reservoir, north of Knoxville. It was brought to this city and after being identified by Mr. H. P. Ijams, it was released on a small lake in a cemetery. Its broken wing has nearly healed and it has begun to take short flights. The bird is an immature one and very gentle. Its principal measurements are: wingspread 82 inches, folded wing 21 inches, length 46 inches, tail 6.5 inches, bill 3⅜ inches, and from nostril to tip of bill 2.25 inches. The bird will be permitted to go on its way as soon as it recovers.—W. M. WALKER, 201 E. Peachtree St., Knoxville, Tenn.

ANOTHER FALL NESTING BARN OWL: On Nov. 20, 1943, a young Barn Owl, recently from the nest, was captured by a hunter on the bluffs of the French Broad River near the east edge of Knox County. Mr. Ijams came into possession of the bird and described it as being covered with down with only a few of its regular feathers beginning to show. Attempts were made to raise the owl to maturity but it died about a month after its capture.—W. M. WALKER, Knoxville, Tenn.

NOTES FROM OXFORD, MISS.: The latest winter residents to arrive did not appear until November; Purple Finches were first noted on the 10th, Fox Sparrows and a Pipit on the 13th, and Horned Larks on the 20th. Cowbirds and Rusty Blackbirds were not seen until Dec. 4, but probably arrived sooner. The Pipit is the only one seen to date. The most unusual species recorded during the period were a Short-billed Marsh Wren (Nov. 13 and Dec. 31) and about 5 Brewer's Blackbirds on Dec. 11. The latter were associating with a flock of about 300 Starlings and their tameness enabled the writer to study them with binoculars at less than ten yards. Red-breasted Nuthatches were rediscovered on Nov. 10 and others have been found since. A search of the short-leafed pine tracts should reveal a number.—HENRY M. STEVENSON, Dept. of Biology, Univ. of Miss.

BIND YOUR MIGRANTS: Our readers are urged to get together their copies of THE MIGRANT for 1941, 1942 and 1943, and have them bound into one volume. Missing numbers can be supplied. It will make a nice sized book about 1½ inches thick. A vast fund of information is included on the birds of Tennessee and with the aid of the species index in this issue, all that has been written of any species during the last three years can readily be found. The Editor has made arrangements with a local binder to bind in buckram for $1.50 per set and will be glad to handle this for any member.

OUR CHAPTERS at Memphis, Nashville, Knoxville and Johnson City, report they are holding regular meetings, semi-monthly or monthly. A schedule of meeting dates and lists of local officers will appear in our March issue.

Personal and news items are also being held over for lack of space.

DUES FOR 1944 are due Jan. 1st. Your prompt remittance to Treasurer Clebsch will save his time and save the Society the cost of billing you.

# THE MIGRANT

A QUARTERLY JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE STUDY OF TENNESSEE BIRDS
PUBLISHED BY THE TENNESSEE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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**Alfred Clebsch, Secretary-Treasurer, 838 Gracey, Ave.., Clarksville, Tenn.**

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**Albert F. Ganier Editor, 2112 Woodlawn Drive, Nashville, Tenn.**

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Publication of THE MIGRANT was begun, March 1930.

*The simple truth about birds is interesting enough,*
*it is not necessary to go beyond it."*

PLEASE NOTIFY THE SECRETARY OF A CHANGE IN ADDRESS

## EDITOR'S CHAT

With this issue, we complete another block of three volumes of THE MIGRANT and conclude with an index for easy reference. It is with considerable satisfaction to your Editor that this has been accomplished, for the uncertainties of a strenuous period of war and increased demands upon the time of all of us, have made its production more difficult. Without shirking our duties in the war effort, we have carried forward our ornithological work in keeping with the times and within the restrictions which we cheerfully accept. To our contributors, our officers and particularly to our Secretary-Treasurer, your Editor extends his sincere thanks for their help and co-operation.

And now, what of the future? We shall enter 1944 as we entered the year just passed—resolved to carry on and to keep the cultural-recreational work of the T. O. S. intact. By so doing, we will be ready when this cruel war is ended, to do our bit to maintain our nation in the front rank as a land where life and liberty may be enjoyed to the fullest. Our young men in the armed forces are giving the best years of their lives to bring about this result, and some of them, even their lives. When they return, they will want to forget the brutalities of war, they will hunger for the finer things of life, and we must keep our cultural institutions intact in order that they may join in again and go on to better things and resume the ways of life that our country has evolved. The years that will follow peace will witness many changes but they can be made even better years than we have known before. Wonderful progress in mass production and greatly expanded industrial facilities, should be able to supply all of our worldly needs with far less labor. This should mean more time for recreation and culture. These, together with education, will become "big business" and in themselves give employment to many people. Within a comparatively few years, our national parks have been expanded, our national forests have been opened up to vacationists, and every state has developed its own chain of wildwood parks. With good roads and fast transportation plus more leisure time, the out-of-doors should become the feature development of the coming generation and along with it, will come a wider appreciation of all nature, of which as we well know, the birds form a most attractive part.

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The English names used above are those given in the A.O.U. check-list, 1931 edition, and therein may be found the corresponding scientific name.

In general, subspecies are ignored unless authors specifically state that the names used are based on collected specimens determined by a competent authority. Certain exceptions have been made, e.g., Juncos, Grackles, Water-Thrushes, etc.

Where a bird's name appears more than once on a page, it is shown only once in the index unless in a separate article.

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Robin, **1941:** 5, 8, 9, 16, 17, 18, 19, 19, 33, 37, 72, 75; **1942:** 17, 20, 23, 25, 25, 26, 27, 36, 48, 55, 62, 71, 75, 76; **1943:** 7, 11, 12, 14, 40, 45, 53, 69, 73. 74.

Sandpiper, Least, **1941:** 11, 26, 58; **1942:** 67.
Sandpiper, Pectoral, **1941:** 58; **1943:** 56.
Sandpiper, Red-backed, **1942:** 20.
Sandpiper, Semipalmated, **1941:** 22, 58, 71; **1942:** 67; **1943:** 56.
Sandpiper, Solitary, **1941:** 5, 22, 36, 37, 58, 73; **1942:** 44, 56; **1943:** 41.
Sandpiper, Spotted, **1941:** 5, 22, 24, 58, 73; **1943:** 14, 18.
Sandpiper, Stilt, **1941:** 71.
Sandpiper, Western, **1941:** 58, 71; **1942:** 67.
Sapsucker, Yellow-bellied, **1941:** 7, 9, 16; **1942:** 17, 19, 44, 56, 62, 75, 76; **1943:** 14, 55, 74, 75.
Scoter, **1941:** 11.
Shoveller, **1941:** 15, 36, 53, 61.
Shrike, **1941:** 16, 33, 69; **1942:** 20, 27, 33, 34, 44, 62, 64; **1943:** 53.
Shrike, Migrant, **1941:** 6, 8, 9, 18; **1942:** 17, 20, 61, 75; **1943:** 74, 75.
Siskin, Pine, **1141:** 7, 8, 10; **1942:** 20, 23, 62, 63, 55; **1943:** 74, 75.
Snipe, Wilson's, **1941:** 7, 9, 15, 72; **1942:** 17, 19, 23, 62; **1943:** 13, 67, 74.
Sparrow, Bachman, **1941:** 33, 34, 36; **1942:** 33, 37; **1943:** 29, 39, 51.
Sparrow, Chipping, **1941:** 7, 8, 9, 33; **1942:** 23, 33, 37, 41, 48, 62, 68, 76; **1943:** 3, 11, 12, 14, 15, 48, 56, 75.
Sparrow, English, **1941:** 8, 9, 33, 47; **1942:** 17, 20, 62, 75; **1943:** 18, 51, 53, 74.
Sparrow, Field, **1941:** 5, 8, 9, 16, 33, 45; **1942:** 17, 20, 33, 37, 44, 62, 71, 75, 76; **1943:** 8, 11, 15, 24a, 48, 74.
Sparrow, Fox, **1941:** 8, 9; **1942;** 17, 20, 27, 62; **1943:** 74, 79.
Sparrow, Gambel's, **1941:** 15; **1943:** 8.
Sparrow, Grasshopper, **1941:** 33, 59; **1942:** 49, 62, 68; **1943:** 28-31, 37, 39.
Sparrow, Henslow's, **1942:** 23; **1943:** 55.
Sparrow, Harris', **1941:** 41.
Sparrow, Lark, **1941:** 5, 59; **1943:** 39, 63.
Sparrow, Leconte's, **1941:** 8, 14, 15, 16, 69; **1942:** 20, 62, 68, 70; **1943:** 13, 65, 66, 74, 77.
Sparrow, Lincoln's, **1942:** 62, 66; **1943:** 20, 55.
Sparrow, Savannah, **1941:** 8, 9, 69; **1942:** 17, 20, 62, 70, 76; **1943:** 5, 29, 56, 66, 74.
Sparrow, Song, **1941:** 8, 9, 26, 33, 65; **1942:** 17, 20, 44, 48, 62, 71, 75, 76; **1943:** 2, 8, 55, 56, 66, 74.
Sparrow, Swamp, **1941:** 8, 9, 16, 18, 77; **1942:** 17, 20, 44, 62, 76; **1943:** 2, 55, 56, 66, 74.
Sparrow, Western Swamp, **1941:** 77; **1943:** 52.
Sparrow, Tree, **1941:** 8, 9, 14, 15, 17; **1942:** 20, 62, 68; **1943:** 12, 24a, 65, 74, 78.
Sparrow, Vesper, **1941:** 8, 19; **1942:** 23, 39, 62, 64; **1943:** 12, 13, 55, 74, 77.
Sparrow, White-crowned, **1941:** 8, 9, 16, 37, 41; **1942:** 17, 20, 62, 75; **1943:** 3, 8, 55, 74.
Sparrow, White-throated, **1941:** 5, 8, 9, 16, 18, 71; **1942:** 17, 20, 24, 55, 62, 67, 75, 76; **1943:** 2, 3, 5, 8, 15, 55, 74, 79.
Starling, **1941:** 8, 9, 16, 17, 33, 35, 37, 72; **1942:** 17, 20, 24, 25, 34, 38, 44, 48, 54, 55, 62, 75; **1943:** 1, 4, 7, 13, 40, 45, 53, 54, 74, 78.
Swallow, Bank, **1941:** 26, 34, 58.
Swallow, Barn, **1941:** 26, 33, 34, 37, 58, 59; **1942:** 33, 34, 43, 44; **1943:** 55.
Swallow, Cliff, **1941:** 21-24, 71; **1942:** 32, 48; **1943:** 62.
Swallow, Rough-wing, **1941:** 21, 26, 33, 34, 58.
Swallow, Tree, **1941:** 26, 58, 71; **1942:** 35, 54, 66, 67.
Swan, Whistling, **1943:** 79.
Swift, Chimney, **1941:** 26, 32, 37, 46, 57, 63, 69, 70, 76; **1942:** 37, 44, 68, 71, 75; **1943:** 6, 11, 19, 47, 52, 53, 60.

Tanager, Scarlet, **1941:** 33, 34; **1942:** 41, 43; **1943:** 51, 55.
Tanager, Summer, **1941:** 33, 46; **1942:** 33, 44, 48; **1943:** 11, 53, 55.
Teal, Blue-winged, **1941:** 8, 24, 26, 36, 58, 72; **1942:** 19, 53, 61, 67, 76; **1943:** 12, 27, 41, 52.
Teal, Green-winged, **1941:** 7, 15, 72; **1942:** 53; **1943:** 73.
Tern, Black, **1941:** 26, 36, 58; **1942:** 43, 49; **1943:** 56.
Tern, Forster's, **1941:** 58.
Tern, Least, **1941:** 24, 32; **1942:** 34, 54.
Tern, Common, **1941:** 59; **1942:** 49.
Thrasher, Brown, **1941:** 8, 18, 33, 46, 70, 73; **1942:** 20, 23, 36, 44, 48, 56, 62; **1943:** 7, 11, 12, 48, 53, 57, 74.
Thrush, Grey-checked, **1943:** 36, 51, 55.
Thrush, Hermit, **1941:** 8, 9, 16, 72; **1942:** 17, 20, 62, 64, 76; **1943:** 37, 45, 46, 51, 74.

Thrush, Olive-backed, 1941: 77; 1943: 26.
Thrush, Western Olive-backed, 1941: 77.
Thrush, Willow, 1943: 37, 56.
Thrush, Wood, 1941: 6, 33, 35, 45; 1942: 48; 1943: 11, 26, 53, 54, 55.
Thrush, Wilson's (see Veery).
Titmouse, Tufted, 1941: 8, 9, 33, 46; 1942: 17, 19, 27, 48, 62, 75, 76; 1943: 4, 6, 11, 21, 46, 53, 74.
Towhee, Red-eyed, 1941: 8, 9, 17, 18, 33, 35, 36, 37, 45, 51-57, 58, 59, 61; 1942: 17, 20, 24, 27, 34, 36, 40, 41, 43, 44, 48, 62, 75, 76; 1943: 2, 3, 5, 8, 11, 46, 74.
Towhee, Alabama, 1941: 51; 1942: 34.
Turkey, Eastern, 1941: 7, 10; 1942: 20, 62; 1943: 74.

Veery, 1942: 40, 41; 1943: 11.
Vireo, Blue-headed, 1941: 36; 1942: 20, 23, 43, 46, 49, 76; 1943: 36, 55.
Vireo, Mountain, 1942: 40, 41; 1943: 11.
Vireo, Philadelphia, 1941: 36, 71; 1942: 43; 1943: 36, 55, 56.
Vireo, Red-eyed, 1941: 33, 39, 46; 1942: 41, 48; 1943; 11, 29, 53, 55.
Vireo, Warbling, 1941: 33; 1943: 29, 53.
Vireo, White-eyed, 1941: 33, 35, 37, 46; 1942: 48, 76; 1943: 11, 38, 53.
Vireo, Yellow-throated, 1941: 33; 1942: 33, 48, 49; 1943: 11, 39.
Vulture, Black, 1941: 7, 9, 15, 18, 32, 72, 73, 74; 1942: 16, 19, 42, 45, 61, 68, 72, 76; 1943: 13, 41, 73, 75.
Vulture, Turkey, 1941: 7, 9, 32, 73; 1942: 16, 19, 45, 61, 75, 76; 1943: 41, 60, 73.

Warbler, Bay-breasted, 1941: 71; 1942: 67; 1943: 39.
Warbler, Black-and-white, 1941: 33, 59; 1942: 20, 22, 28a, 48, 76; 1943: 11, 39.
Warbler, Blackburnian, 1941: 59, 60, 71; 1942: 41, 46; 1943: 55.
Warbler, Black-poll, 1941: 26; 1942: 46.
Warbler, Black-throated Green, 1941: 36, 58, 71; 1942: 46; 1943: 55, 56.
Warbler, Blue-winged, 1941: 71, 77; 1943: 39.
Warbler, Brewster's, 1941: 77.
Warbler, Cairn's, 1942: 40, 41; 1943: 11.
Warbler, Canada, 1941: 58; 1942: 41, 46; 1943: 56.
Warbler, Cape May, 1941: 36, 58; 1943: 36.
Warbler, Cerulean, 1941: 39, 58; 1942: 34, 43.
Warbler, Chestnut-sided, 1941: 59, 71; 1942: 40, 41, 46.
Warbler, Connecticut, 1942: 73; 1943: 27-28.
Warbler, Golden-winged, 1941: 36, 59, 71, 77; 1942: 43.
Warbler, Hooded, 1941: 30, 33; 1942: 48; 1943: 55.
Warbler, Kentucky, 1941: 33, 45; 1942: 33, 73; 1943: 11, 17.
Warbler, Magnolia, 1941: 58; 1942: 46, 48; 1943: 55.
Warbler, Mourning, 1941: 36; 1942: 43, 46, 72; 1943: 37.
Warbler, Myrtle, 1941: 8, 9, 16; 1942: 17, 20, 24, 27, 62, 75, 76; 1943: 3, 12, 13, 39, 45, 55, 56, 57, 74.
Warbler Nashville, 1941: 58; 1943: 37, 55.
Warbler, Orange-crowned, 1941: 36, 71; 1942: 20, 23.
Warbler, Palm, 1941: 9; 1942: 20, 62, 63, 75; 1943: 19, 39, 56, 57, 74.
Warbler, Parula, 1941: 33, 35, 59; 1943: 51, 53, 55.
Warbler, Pine, 1941: 8, 33, 40; 1942: 33, 62, 63; 1943: 74.
Warbler, Prairie, 1941: 33, 37, 45; 1942: 33, 1943: 11, 39.
Warbler, Prothonotary, 1941: 33, 35, 35, 74; 1942: 34, 35, 42, 54; 1943: 11, 31-36, 42.
Warbler, Swainson's, 1941: 25, 27-31, 33, 59; 1942: 32, 34, 43, 45; 1943: 38.
Warbler, Sycamore, 1941: 26, 33, 45; 1942: 35; 1943: 11.
Warbler, Tennessee, 1941: 59; 1943: 55.
Warbler, Wilson's, 1941: 36, 71, 76; 1942: 43; 1943: 37, 52.
Warbler, Worm-eating, 1941: 33, 36, 40, 58; 1943: 38.
Warbler, Yellow, 1941: 33, 37, 39, 58, 71; 1942: 41, 48; 1943: 7, 29.
Water-Thrush, Grinnell's, 1942: 43. See also next.
Water-Thrush, Northern, 1941: 36, 71; 1942: 43, 46, 67; 1943: 36, 39, 56.
Water-Thrush, Louisiana, 1941: 27, 29, 30, 33; 1942: 32, 34; 1943: 42.
Water-Turkey, 1941: 26, 58, 74; 1942: 42; 1943: 41.
Waxwing, Cedar, 1941: 8, 9, 13; 1942: 17, 20, 24, 46, 62, 63, 64, 75, 76; 1943: 2, 4, 15, 45, 55, 56, 74.
Whip-poor-will, 1941: 36, 59; 1942: 43; 1943: 26, 61.
Willet, Western, 1943: 51.
Woodcock, 1941: 9, 32, 34, 36; 1942: 19, 46, 49; 1943: 14.

Woodpecker, Downy, **1941**: 7, 9, 33; **1942**: 17, 19, 48, 55, 62, 75, 76; **1943**: 4, 6, 11, 21, 46, 53, 74.
Woodpecker, Hairy, **1941**: 7, 9, 33, 35; **1942**: 17, 19, 55, 62, 76; **1943**: 6, 11, 21, 74.
Woodpecker, Ivory-billed, **1943**: 9-10, 19.
Woodpecker, Pileated, **1941**: 7, 9, 15, 32; **1942**: 17, 19, 33, 35, 42, 62, 75, 76; **1943**: 4, 10, 11, 15, 19, 59, 60, 74.
Woodpecker, Red-bellied, **1941**: 7, 9, 16, 33; **1942**: 17, 19, 62, 75, 76; **1943**: 11, 46, 53, 59, 74.
Woodpecker, Red-cockaded, **1942**: 33, 47.
Woodpecker, Red-headed, **1941**: 7, 17, 33, 37; **1942**: 17, 19, 24, 33, 44, 47, 62, 64, 73; **1943**: 38, 46, 53, 56, 59, 68, 74.
Wren, Bewick's, **1941**: 8, 9, 15, 33, 35, 36, 37; **1942**: 5-7, 10, 17, 19, 24, 36, 44, 62, 75, 76; **1943**: 11, 12, 14, 48, 59, 74.
Wren, Carolina, **1941**: 8, 9, 16, 17, 18, 33, 45, 76; **1942**: 7-9, 10, 17, 19, 46, 48, 62, 71, 74, 75, 76; **1943**: 1, 2, 4, 6, 11, 14, 21, 43, 48, 53, 63, 74.
Wren House, **1941**: 8, 71; **1942**: 2-3, 10, 23, 43, 62, 63; **1943**: 56.
Wren, Long-billed Marsh (see next below).
Wren, Prairie Marsh, **1941**: 7, 8, 15; **1942**: 10, 11-12; **1943**: 39, 56.
Wren, Short-billed Marsh, **1941**: 71; **1942**: 10, 12-13, 32, 67; **1943**: 55, 73, 74, 75, 78, 79.
Wren, Winter, **1941**: 8, 9, 16, 49; **1942**: 3-5, 17, 19, 24, 62, 76; **1943**: 12, 55, 74, 78.

Yellowlegs, Greater, **1941**: 58, 71.
Yellowlegs, Lesser, **1941**: 11, 36, 58, 72, 72; **1942**: 67, 71; **1943**: 37, 41.
Yellowthroat, Maryland, **1941**: 33, 45; **1942**: 44; **1943**: 11, 53, 55.
Yellowthroat, Northern, **1942**: 32, 33, 48; **1943**: 7, 27, 56.

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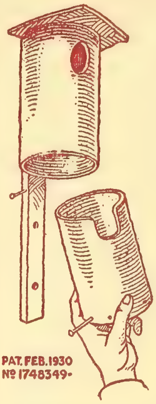

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